Information Governance Team
Monnow Ward
Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LY
Email: Powys.FOI@wales.nhs.uk
Tel:01686 252170 / 01874 442071

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.274.26

16 July 2026

Sent via email to: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received on 7 July 2026. In accordance with section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) confirms that it holds information relevant to your request. For ease of reference, your questions are set out below, with the Health Board's response provided beneath each question.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):
Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and, where the information concerns the trust's buildings or estate, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), I request the recorded information set out below. Please treat each question under whichever regime applies.

Where a question asks about future plans, please provide only information the trust currently holds in recorded form, such as an approved business case or an entry in the capital programme. Where no time period is given, the most recent available figure is fine.

If answering any single question would exceed the cost limit under section 12 of the Act, please answer the remaining questions and tell us which you have set aside, so we can refine it. If any answer is already published, a link under section 21 is sufficient.

We would be glad to receive answers in this document or as a spreadsheet.

Operating theatres: capacity and condition
Q1a. As at the most recent date, how many operating theatres does the trust have in use? Please break this down by type: standard, laminar-flow, day-case or procedure, and hybrid (with integrated imaging). -**PTHB currently has two operating theatres in use. Both are laminar-flow operating theatres used for day-case surgical procedures. They are located at Breconshire War Memorial Hospital and Llandrindod Wells Hospital.**

Q1b. For each operating theatre, please give the year it was built or last fully refurbished (a full refurbishment includes a new HVAC, that is, heating and ventilation, system).

- **Llandrindod Wells Hospital – full refurbishment completed August 2012**
- **Breconshire War Memorial – full refurbishment completed November 2012**

Q1c. Does the trust hold an estate register or list of its operating theatres? If so, please provide it or its key fields. - **PTHB holds a list covering both hospital sites. This is not a standalone operating theatre estate register; it is a ventilation spreadsheet which includes the operating theatre areas. The key fields relevant to this request are "Hospital" and "Area".**

Q1d. What was the average operating-theatre utilisation rate over the most recent twelve months (for example, the percentage of available session time used)? - **The average operating theatre utilisation rate for the 12-month period ending 30 June 2026 was 23.2%. This figure reflects operating theatre session utilisation and is based on Business Intelligence reports derived from the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS). Available session capacity is calculated on the basis of two operating sessions per day, five days per week, equating to 10 sessions per week and 40 sessions per month per theatre location. Over a 12-month period this equates to 480 available sessions per site (960 available sessions across both sites). This calculation excludes evening or weekend operating sessions. The position for each theatre location is shown below:**

Breconshire War Memorial Hospital Theatre

- **Available sessions: 480**
- **Sessions held: 154**
- **Sessions utilised: 132**
- **Utilisation rate: 27.5%**

Llandrindod Wells Hospital Theatre

- **Available sessions: 480**
- **Sessions held: 127**
- **Sessions utilised: 91**
- **Utilisation rate: 19.0%**

Total

- **Available sessions: 960**
- **Sessions held: 281**
- **Sessions utilised: 223**
- **Average utilisation rate: 23.2%**

Q1e. How many operating theatres, if any, are currently out of use or operating under restriction, and for what recorded reason? - **No operating theatres are currently out of use. However, the Health Board's theatres are currently subject to operational restrictions during periods where temperature**

and humidity levels exceed acceptable environmental parameters, which may result in the reduction or cancellation of elective operating sessions to maintain patient safety and comply with ventilation requirements.

Surgical hubs
Q2a. Does the trust operate an elective surgical hub (a unit given over to planned surgery with ring-fenced theatres and staff)? If yes, please give the year it opened and the number of theatres it contains. - **PTHB does not operate a dedicated elective surgical hub with ring-fenced theatres and staffing arrangements.**

Q2b. Is any such hub accredited under the GIRFT Elective Hub Accreditation programme? **- Not applicable as PTHB does not operate a dedicated elective surgical hub.**

Q2c. Are there approved or planned schemes to create or expand a surgical hub within the next five years? If so, please give a brief description, the number of theatres, and the expected date. -**PTHB does not currently have any approved schemes to create or expand a dedicated elective surgical hub within the next five years.**

Endoscopy and diagnostics
Q3a. How many endoscopy procedure rooms does the trust have in use? - **PTHB has two procedure rooms currently in use, located at Breconshire War Memorial Hospital and Llandrindod Wells Hospital.**

Q3b. At the most recent date, what is the size of the endoscopy waiting list and the longest wait, if not already published? -**The figures provided are based on Business Intelligence reports extracted from the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) as of 30 June 2026. At that date, there were 20 patients on the endoscopy waiting list, of whom 2 were awaiting a scheduled procedure date. The longest recorded wait was 7 weeks and 1 day. The patient concerned had a procedure date scheduled for 1 July 2026 and remained within the applicable waiting time target at the time of reporting.**

Q3c. Are there approved or planned schemes to add endoscopy or community diagnostic capacity within the next five years? Please describe briefly, with expected dates. -**The Health Board does not currently hold any approved schemes to increase endoscopy or community diagnostic capacity within the next five years. However, it continues to explore opportunities to support regional working and mutual aid arrangements with neighbouring NHS organisations where capacity allows. The Endoscopy Service is also progressing the implementation of a Capsule Sponge service within existing service arrangements.**

Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD)
Q4a. Is the trust's Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) provided in-house or outsourced? If outsourced, to which provider, where recorded? -**PTHB does not provide a Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) service**

in-house. Sterilisation and reprocessing of theatre surgical instruments is provided by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUB) under service level arrangements.

Q4b. In what year was the main CSSD facility built or last significantly refurbished (a significant refurbishment includes replacing essential components such as sterilisers)? -**Not applicable.**

Endoscope decontamination
Q5a. Is the trust's endoscope decontamination provided in-house or outsourced? If outsourced, to which provider, where recorded? **- In-house.**

Q5b. In what year was the main endoscope decontamination facility built or last significantly refurbished (a significant refurbishment includes replacing essential components such as AERs, the machines that clean endoscopes)?

- **Breconshire War Memorial Hospital - the Automated Endoscope Reprocessors (AERs) were replaced in February 2022 and became operational in April 2022.**
- **Llandrindod Wells Hospital - the refurbished endoscopy unit which includes decontamination unit was commissioned in March 2021.**

Q5c. In the last three years, has any decontamination or sterilisation facility had unplanned downtime that required temporary or contingency arrangements? If so, please describe briefly. -**No. The Health Board has not experienced any unplanned downtime of its endoscope decontamination or sterilisation facilities within the last three years requiring temporary or contingency arrangements.**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Should you wish an internal review, please quote the reference number and send your correspondence to the above address.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH.
Telephone: 0330 414 6421
Complaints Portal: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints
Web site: https://ico.org.uk/

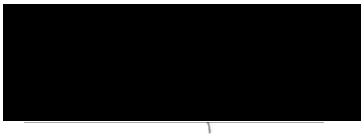
Re-use of Public Sector Information
All information supplied by the Health Board in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Health Board will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with

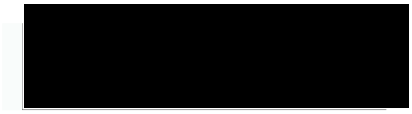
the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however, the Health Board reserves the right, in certain circumstances to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information including a sample license terms and fees can be found at Open Government Licence.

Yours sincerely



David Farnsworth
Assistant Director, Community Services Group



Wayne Tannahill
Associate Director of Capital, Estates and Facilities

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.