



Email: Powys.FOI@wales.nhs.uk
Tel: 01686 252170 / 01874 442071

4 August 2026

I write further to your request for information which was received by Health and Care Research Wales on 23 July 2026. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is responding to this request on behalf of Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW), as host organisation and the request was forwarded to us by them. I can confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that PTHB does not hold the information that you require. For ease of reference, your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your Trust/Health Board's provision and funding of wearable cardioverter defibrillators (WCDs).

Some questions concern the reimbursement mechanism for these devices; where the clinical cardiac team does not hold that detail, I would be grateful if it could be referred to the finance or contracting function as needed.

For reference:

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhealthtechnology.wales%2Freports-guidance%2Fwearable-cardioverter-defibrillators%2F&data=05%7C02%7CPowysFOI.FOI%40wales.nhs.uk%7C8521336c458b422e75db08dee8a89113%7Cbb5628b8e3284082a856433c9edc8fae%7C0%7C0%7C639204007857568660%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoitWFpbCIiIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=W%2BGyfwWjZ6WKJNWP CmQ3AHBy%2F9l4lLgBlfU%2BibAsOKo%3D&reserved=0>

Please provide your response within 20 working days, by email, as required by the Act.

Headquarters
Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital
Brecon, Powys LD3 0LU
Tel: 01874 711661

We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

Scope and definitions: This request concerns wearable cardioverter defibrillators (WCDs) only — external, non-implanted defibrillator garments worn temporarily by patients at risk of sudden cardiac death, such as, but not limited to, the ZOLL LifeVest. It does not concern, and we are not requesting information about, any implanted cardiac rhythm management device, including implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), subcutaneous ICDs (S-ICDs), cardiac resynchronisation therapy defibrillators (CRT-D), CRT pacemakers (CRT-P), conventional pacemakers, or leadless pacemakers. Where a question below refers to a "defibrillator" or "device", it should be read as referring solely to the wearable, external WCD described here.

Q1. Does your Trust/Health Board currently provide, prescribe, fit, or fund wearable cardioverter defibrillators (WCDs) — external, non-implanted defibrillator garments such as, but not limited to, the ZOLL LifeVest, worn by patients at risk of sudden cardiac death? This question excludes all implanted devices (ICDs, S-ICDs, CRT-D, CRT-P and pacemakers). If yes, please state which WCD product(s) or manufacturer(s) are in use.

Q2. Through which payment mechanism is the cost of WCD provision funded or recovered by the Trust/Health Board? Specifically, is the WCD reimbursed as a high cost tariff-excluded device (i.e. listed in Annex A, tab 12a of the NHS Payment Scheme and reimbursed separately from the national price), funded within the relevant national price / HRG tariff, or funded under a local price or locally agreed arrangement / business case?

Q3. Where WCD provision is funded as an excluded or pass-through device, please confirm the responsible commissioner and supply route — that is, whether it is commissioned by NHS Wales specialised commissioning via the High Cost Tariff-Excluded Devices (HCTED) / Specialised Service Devices programme (SSDP) and procured through NHS Supply Chain, or funded by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) under a local high cost device arrangement.

Q4. Does WCD provision require prior approval or funding authorisation before supply — for example via a Blueteq form, an Individual Funding Request, or a specialised commissioning prior-approval process — and if so, which body or committee grants that approval?

Q5. For the most recent full financial year for which data are held, how many patients were supplied with, or commenced on, a WCD funded by your Trust/Health Board? Please state the financial year to which the figure relates.

Powys Response:

Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) do not provide cardiology services or direct patient care. Therefore, this is a nil response.

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

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.