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Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.236.26

25 June 2026

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 05 June 2026, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold the information that you require. For ease of reference your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows each question individually.

### Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Q1. A copy of the Health Board's current policy, procedure, or guideline setting out the discharge criteria used in post-anaesthetic care units (PACU/recovery) for transferring patients from recovery to a ward (Stage 1 to Stage 2 recovery). **Please note that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) delivers surgical services on a day case basis only.**

**Please find enclosed: FOI.236.26 Attachment 1 - TEP 063 Theatre Patient Pathway Protocol that describes the patient pathway through theatre and recovery. All protocols and pathways followed by the Health Board are aligned with the British Association of Day Surgery (BADs) guidelines. This protocol includes the criteria for transferring patients from recovery to the ward. These criteria include:**

- **The patient being fully conscious and able to maintain their own airway.**
- **Stable respiratory and cardiovascular status.**
- **Adequate peripheral perfusion.**
- **Pain and nausea controlled.**
- **Temperature within acceptable limits.**
- **Satisfactory post-operative observations (minimum of two sets following general anaesthesia).**

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**The protocol also confirms that discharge from recovery is the responsibility of the anaesthetist, with the use of established discharge criteria to support decision-making. As PTHB provides day case surgery only, patients are transferred back to a ward prior to discharge home, where further recovery and discharge assessment takes place.**

Q2. Confirmation of whether a recognised scoring system (e.g. Aldrete, Modified Aldrete, or an in-house scoring tool) is used to assess readiness for discharge from recovery, and a copy of any such scoring tool or assessment checklist.

**The Health Board does not utilise a formalised recovery scoring system such as the Aldrete or Modified Aldrete score. Instead, patient readiness for discharge from recovery is assessed using a combination of:**

- **Physiological observations, including NEWS2 scoring.**
- **Pain assessment tools.**
- **A structured discharge criteria checklist (for day surgery patients.**
- **Clinical judgement of recovery staff and the anaesthetist.**

**Please find enclosed PTHB's locally developed care pathway document: FOI.236.26 Attachment 2 – Day Surgery Integrated Care Pathway (General Anaesthetic). This includes a 'Discharge Criteria and Assessment' checklist; however, this is not a numerical scoring system but a criteria-based assessment. As mentioned above, our pathways are aligned with the BADS guidelines.**

Q3. Any separate discharge criteria used for day surgery / ambulatory patients being discharged home from recovery (e.g. PADSS or equivalent), if applicable.

**The attached protocol relates to discharge from recovery to ward, rather than discharge home. PTHB utilises a local care pathway document that includes a structured discharge checklist for day surgery patients, covering readiness for discharge home (e.g. alertness, stable observations, pain control, nausea control, and confirmation of escort and home care arrangements). Our patients are returned to our ward prior to discharge home, where these criteria are applied alongside clinical assessment.**

Q4. The date these documents were last reviewed and approved.

**I can confirm that TEP 063 Theatre Patient Pathway Protocol was reviewed November - December 2025 and was ratified on 12 January 2026. The Day Surgery Integrated Care Pathway (General Anaesthetic) was reviewed July - August 2025 and published in September 2025**

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](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints)

Web site: <https://ico.org.uk/>

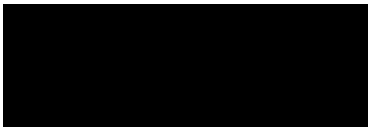
### **Re-use of Public Sector Information**

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.