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Powys Teaching
Health Board

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Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.246.26

14 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 which was received on 22 June 2026, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partly holds the information that you require. For ease of reference your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the information found below regarding the management of acute traumatic rib fractures.

Q1. Single-shot chest wall blocks in the Emergency Department

a. Does your Trust provide single-shot ultrasound-guided chest wall blocks (e.g. serratus anterior plane block [SAPB] or erector spinae plane block [ESPB]) for adults with traumatic rib fractures in the Emergency Department prior to hospital admission?

If yes:

b. Which specialty or specialties perform these blocks (e.g. Emergency Medicine, Anaesthetics, Critical Care)?

c. Are these blocks delivered as part of a formal pathway or standard clinical practice?

d. Following a single-shot block, is it standard practice for patients to be considered for escalation to a continuous chest wall catheter (e.g. SAPB or ESPB catheter) and/or epidural analgesia?

If not:

e. If single-shot chest wall blocks are not routinely performed in the Emergency Department, are they routinely performed later during the patient's admission for traumatic rib fractures?

f. Which specialty or specialties perform these blocks ?

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Q2. Continuous chest wall catheter techniques

a. Does your Trust provide continuous chest wall catheter techniques (e.g. SAPB or ESPB catheters) for adults admitted with traumatic rib fractures?

If yes:

b. Which specialty or specialties perform these procedures?

c. In which clinical areas are these procedures typically performed (e.g. Emergency Department, Anaesthetic Room, Operating Theatre, Critical Care Unit, Ward)?

d. Are patient selection criteria used (e.g. STUMBL Score, Battle Score, RibScore, or other risk stratification tools)? If so, please specify.

Q3. Policy and guidance

a. Please attach a copy of all the specific guidelines and/or protocol and/or standard operational procedure for the chest wall blocks (including any competence/training/education if one is in place)

If no specific local guideline or SOP exists for this, please explicitly state 'No local guideline held'

Q4. Physiotherapy management of rib fractures

a. Does your Trust provide specific physiotherapy interventions for adults with traumatic rib fractures, including patients discharged directly from the Emergency Department?

Examples may include incentive spirometry, breathing exercises, respiratory physiotherapy, kinesiology taping (K-tape), or other structured interventions.

If yes:

b. Please describe the interventions provided.

c. Please provide copies of any associated guidelines, pathways, SOPs, patient information leaflets, or physiotherapy protocols.

If no such documents are held, please state: "No local guideline held."

Q5. Other rib fracture management pathways

a. Please provide copies of any additional local guidelines, pathways, SOPs, protocols, or care bundles relating to the management of adults with traumatic rib fractures that have not already been provided in response to Questions 3 and 4 This includes the Emergency Department, inpatient, surgical, medical, trauma, critical care, and physiotherapy pathways.

If no additional documents are held, please state: "No other local guideline held."

Q6. Patient disposition

a. For adults with multiple traumatic rib fractures who do not require Level 2 or Level 3 care, to which ward or specialty area are they most commonly admitted?

Q7. Specialty

a. In your Trust, which parent speciality or specialities (e.g. Emergency Medicine, Frailty, Respiratory, Trauma & Orthopaedics, Cardiothoracic, or General Surgery) mainly look after adults with multiple rib fractures from blunt chest wall trauma as an inpatient for the first 5-7 days?

Powys Response:

Q1-Q3, Q6-Q7. Due to the rural and sparsely populated nature of Powys, we do not have District General Hospital (DGH) or Accident & Emergency (A&E) services within the county. Powys patients requiring these treatments would be sent directly to a neighbouring District General Hospital. I therefore recommend you contact them directly for this information, via the following contact details:

Health Trust/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	ghn-tr.foi@nhs.net
Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	FOI@mpft.nhs.uk
The Robert Jones Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	rjah.foi@nhs.net
Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust	swb-tr.SWBH-GM-FOIRequests@nhs.net
The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	sath.foi@nhs.net
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	rwh-tr.foi@nhs.net
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	wah-tr.FOI@nhs.net
Wye Valley NHS Trust	Freedom.Information@wvt.nhs.uk
Health Board/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	bcu.foi@wales.nhs.uk
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board	FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	CTM.FreedomOfInformation@wales.nhs.uk
Hywel Dda University Health Board	FOI.hyweldda@wales.nhs.uk
Swansea Bay University Health Board	FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Velindre University NHS Trust	Foi.vunhst@wales.nhs.uk

Q4a. Yes, the Health Board provides physiotherapy interventions for adults with traumatic rib fractures.

Q4b. Interventions provided include breathing exercises, incentive spirometry, supported cough advice and mobility advice

Q4c. No local guidelines held.

Q5a. No local guidelines held.

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/>

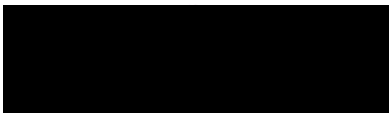
Re-use of Public Sector Information

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.