

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.260.26

10 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 30 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 each question individually.

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

Please provide responses to each of the following questions. Where a question is not applicable to your organisation, please state "Not Applicable" and briefly explain why.

No.	Question	Response Format
1	Does your Trust/Health Board currently have an orthotics service?	Yes
2	Does your Trust/Health Board provide bracing (chest brace and/or vacuum bell) for Pectus deformities?	No
3	If you answered Yes to Question 2: Does your service provide bracing for Pectus Carinatum, Pectus Excavatum, or both?	Not applicable*
4	If you answered Yes to Question 2: Is the orthotics service responsible for the provision of the brace and/or vacuum bell?	Not applicable*
5	If you answered No to Question 4: Which service is responsible for the provision of the brace and/or vacuum bell?	Not applicable*

6	If you answered No to Question 2: Are there any plans for your Trust/Health Board to begin providing this service?	No
7	Over the last 3 years, have you seen an increase in the number of referrals for bracing of Pectus conditions?	No

*** Not Applicable as Powys Teaching Health Board does not provide bracing (chest brace and/or vacuum bell) for Pectus deformities?**

Definitions and Clarifications

For the purposes of this request:

- Orthotics service refers to the provision of orthoses (external devices such as braces, splints, and insoles) and associated clinical services to patients with musculoskeletal, neurological, or other conditions.
- Pectus Carinatum refers to a chest wall deformity in which the sternum and ribs protrude outward (sometimes referred to as "pigeon chest").
- Pectus Excavatum refers to a chest wall deformity in which the sternum and ribs grow abnormally, producing a caved-in or sunken appearance of the chest (sometimes referred to as "funnel chest").
- Bracing refers to the use of an external orthotic device intended to apply corrective pressure to the chest wall to manage Pectus Carinatum or Pectus Excavatum. For the purposes of this request, bracing includes both *chest braces* and *vacuum bells*.
- Provision refers to the assessment and fitting of the device.
- Referral refers to a patient being formally referred to your orthotics service (or a contracted provider on your behalf) for assessment and/or treatment of a Pectus deformity, irrespective of whether bracing was ultimately provided.

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/>

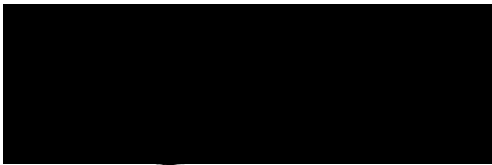
Re-use of Public Sector Information

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



Elaine Lorton
Executive Director of Primary Community Care and Mental Health

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.