

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.101.26

31 March 2026

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I write further to your request for information which was received on 05 March 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.

Please note that PTHB hosts Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW).

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information held by your organisation regarding assurance processes for software-based data erasure of end-of-life IT equipment.

For clarity, this request relates specifically to the erasure of storage media associated with end-of-life hardware such as laptops, desktops, servers, storage arrays, or other data bearing IT equipment. It does not relate to operational deletion of data within live systems, routine account management, or DSP Toolkit self-assessment processes.

Physical destruction methods such as shredding, crushing, degaussing, or disintegration are outside the scope of this request. This request concerns software-based erasure only.

This request seeks to distinguish between confirmation that an erasure process was carried out and recorded evidence demonstrating that the final data state of a specific storage device is irrecoverable. I am not seeking technical configuration detail or security sensitive information, only the recorded

assurance basis relied upon when concluding that personal data has been rendered irrecoverable.

Please confirm:

Q1. Whether your organisation's policies, contractual terms, or internal procedures require an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee that personal data on a specific storage device has been rendered irrecoverable as a final data state following software based erasure.- **I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board's (PTHB's) incumbent supplier for disposal services is contractually obligated to provide a Data Sanitisation Report for all storage devices sent for disposal confirming that all were successfully sanitized using methods aligned to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 2883, "IEEE Standard for Sanitizing Storage" ("IEEE 2883").**

Q2. Where software-based erasure of storage media is undertaken internally, what recorded evidential assurance is relied upon to conclude that the final data state of the specific storage device is irrecoverable, as distinct from confirmation that an erasure process was executed. – **All storage devices are rendered inaccessible as part of our disposals contract. Supplemental erasure of data stored on digital infrastructure is achieved using "Dell Data Wipe" prior to passing to disposals supplier.**

Where software-based erasure is undertaken by a third-party provider:

Q3a. Do the certificates or contractual documents held constitute an explicit outcome-based warranty or guarantee of irrecoverability for each specific storage device processed? – **Please see response to Q1.**

Q3b. Beyond reliance on supplier accreditation or recognised standards including but not limited to ADISA certification, ISO accreditation, NIST alignment, HMG IA standards, NHS Digital guidance, or Data Security and Protection Toolkit assertions, and beyond confirmation that a wiping process was completed, does the organisation hold any recorded, device specific documentation evidencing independent verification, testing, or validation that the data on the storage media has been rendered irrecoverable in practice? – **Data Sanitisation Report from our disposals provider provides us with confirmation that storage devices have been rendered irrecoverable with device/component serial numbers linked to the host device.**

Q4. If no explicit outcome-based warranty or device specific outcome evidence is held beyond certification, accreditation, or confirmation of process completion, please confirm what recorded form of evidential assurance is relied upon when concluding that personal data has been rendered irrecoverable. - **Not applicable.**

If you have queries or any concerns, contact details are given at the top of the letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your

request and wish to ask for a review of this, please contact us and we will arrange for this to be done.

Further information is available from the Information Commissioner's Office who 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/>

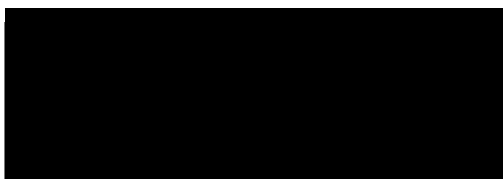
### **Re-use of Public Sector Information**

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



**Claire Madsen**

**Executive Director of Allied Health Professionals, Health Sciences and Digital**

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.