

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.118.26

14 April 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 16 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 not hold the information that you require. For ease of reference your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows.

It is noted that your original request was submitted to us on 13 February 2026. Following further investigation, findings have confirmed that your original message was received however due to the high spam score it was automatically quarantined by Microsoft's anti-spam security filters. Because the message was quarantined before delivery, it did not appear within our FOI inbox. Please accept our apologies for the delay this technical issue may have caused.

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

I am seeking copies of any current, and any previously in-force within the last five years, guidance documents, clinical guidelines, policies, protocols, pathways, standard operating procedures, or written advice used within your Health Board relating to:

Please note, due to the sparsely populated nature of Powys, we do not provide district general hospital services within the health board area. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) provides a midwife-led maternity service offering home births and births in a midwife-led maternity unit. Consultant-led maternity and neonatal services are provided to Powys families in district general hospitals and specialist hospitals in neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England.

Q1. Neonatal HSV Infection

The identification, investigation, management, treatment, or prevention of Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) infection in newborns, including both HSV-1 and HSV-2, whether suspected or confirmed. - **I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) has no local guidance but normal practice would be to advise the patient not to kiss or touch the skin of the newborn with the infected area to reduce risk of transmission to the neonate.**

Q2. HSV in Pregnancy and Perinatal Care

The management of HSV infection in pregnancy, labour, delivery, and the immediate postnatal period where this relates to neonatal HSV risk. - **If a woman has identified HSV infection, a referral to Consultant Obstetric care is made to determine if there is the need for further interventions to reduce the risk of transmission to the neonate.**

Q3. Post-Birth Transmission of HSV

Guidance relating to the prevention and management of post-natal HSV transmission to newborns, including but not limited to:

- HSV-1 oral/labial infection (e.g. cold sores)
- Transmission from parents, carers, visitors, or healthcare staff
- Infection prevention and control measures in maternity wards, postnatal wards, neonatal units, and community midwifery services
- Advice provided to parents regarding contact precautions following birth

If a woman has a suspected or confirmed HSV infection, she would be advised to seek advice and treatment from the GP. There is no local guidance but normal practice would be to advise the patient not to kiss or touch the skin of the newborn with the infected area to reduce risk of transmission to the neonate. This advice would also apply to other members of the household or visitors to ensure no one else risks contamination of the newborn.

For the avoidance of doubt, this request is not limited to genital herpes (HSV-2) and includes any guidance concerning HSV-1, non-genital transmission routes, and neonatal exposure after delivery.

This request includes documents produced by:

- The Health Board directly
- Neonatal units or maternity services within the Board
- Infection Prevention and Control teams
- Safeguarding or risk management teams
- Any regional neonatal network guidance formally adopted or implemented by the Health Board

If your Health Board does not produce its own guidance but instead adopts national or all-Wales guidance (for example via NHS Wales networks, the Wales Neonatal Network, Public Health Wales, RCOG/BASHH guidance, or other national bodies), please:

- Confirm this; and
- Provide copies of any local implementation policies, adaptations, or ratification records.

I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board intends to adopt national and all-Wales guidance in due course. As part of our current improvement plan, consideration is being given to how this guidance may be incorporated into local guidance. All care provided is individualised and takes account of any additional support required by the woman.

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

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

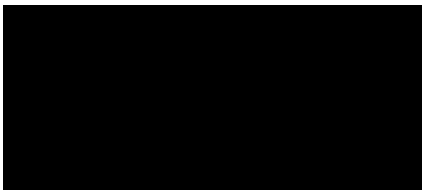
Re-use of Public Sector Information

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



Amie Symes
Director of Midwifery, Women and Family

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.