

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.185.26

2 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 May 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):

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am conducting research into food poverty, health inequalities, and the social determinants of health in Wales. Grateful for the following information:

Q1. Referrals to food banks or emergency food provision

Any data held by the Health Board on referrals made by NHS staff to food banks or emergency food provision services, for each calendar year from 2018 to the most recent available recorded information (preferably up to December 2024). Where this information is not held in a directly extractable or coded form, please confirm whether such referrals are recorded in any system and, if so, how.

PTHB does not hold centrally collated data on referrals made by NHS staff to food banks or emergency food provision services for the period requested. Where such information is recorded, it would usually be documented on a case-by-case basis within an individual patient's medical record rather than within a centrally searchable or coded field. As a result, the Health Board does not hold this information in a format that would enable extraction by calendar year.

In practice, not all food banks in Powys require vouchers, and signposting to local support services is often more typical than a formal

referral. Services that may be involved in signposting or referral include Dietetics, Public Health Nursing and Community Children's Nursing.

Q2. Referral pathways and systems

Whether the Health Board has any formal or informal:

- referral pathways,
- policies,
- social prescribing mechanisms, or
- partnership arrangements

that enable NHS staff to refer patients to food banks or emergency food provision services.

Please provide copies of any relevant documents where available.

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not hold any formal policy/pathways documents specific to this process. Our services would contact the foodbank directly for support.

Q3. Workforce involvement (if recorded)

Where data is held, please indicate whether referrals can be identified by staff group or service area (e.g. primary care, community services, hospital services), and provide any available breakdown.

Please see response to Q1.

Q4. Screening for food insecurity

Whether the Health Board undertakes any routine or structured screening for food insecurity in clinical settings, including:

- use of validated tools (e.g. Hunger Vital Sign or equivalent),
- the clinical settings in which screening is used, and
- the year such screening was introduced (if applicable).

Services do not routinely screen for food insecurity (use a valid tool) but this would be discussed as part of a tailored assessment to identify barriers to changes to diet. Our Maternity service offer Healthy Start voucher signposting to any eligible women and if a need arose would signpost to local food bank services.

Q5. Data availability

If the Health Board does not hold data on referrals to food banks or emergency food provision, please confirm this and indicate whether this is due to:

- absence of a coded field, - **Yes.**
- lack of centralised recording, or - **Yes**
- other data limitations - **n/a**

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/>

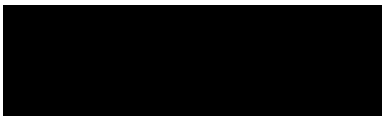
Re-use of Public Sector Information

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.

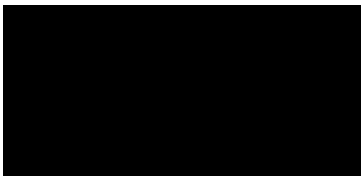
Under the terms of the Regulations, the Health Board will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms 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



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.