

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.190.26

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):

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information and documentation on the below. Please provide a breakdown of the years 2022,2023,2024,2025, Q1 2026.

Q1. How many patients with epilepsy are there in your health board (please provide a breakdown of gender.) – **As a provider Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not have an epilepsy specialist service. Powys patients requiring this service would be referred to one of our neighbouring district general hospitals. We therefore recommend that you approach our provider organisations directly for this information. The table below lists the main health boards and NHS Trust from which we commission health services for Powys residents. Please note that all providers may not necessarily offer services that fall within the definition of your request.**

Health Trust/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	ghn-tr.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

Pencadlys
Tŷ Glasbury, Ysbyty Bronllys,
Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LU
Ffôn: 01874 711661



Headquarters
Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital
Brecon, Powys LD3 0LU
Tel: 01874 711661

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	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

Q2. Of those, how many would be considered at high risk of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP)? – **Please see response to Q1.**

Q3. How many patients with epilepsy have died during pregnancy? Please give a breakdown of how many of these were due to SUDEP - **PTHB is unable to provide these exact numbers due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less). PTHB believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified, when considered with other information already available within the public domain, if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of UK GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.**

Q4. Any local risk assessment completed by the Health Board on the implementation of MHRA regulations on Valproate - **PTHB established a multidisciplinary Valproate Oversight Group (VOG) in response to the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency) National Patient Safety Alert regarding sodium valproate. The records reviewed demonstrate ongoing risk assessment, governance oversight, audit, monitoring, and mitigation activity relating to implementation of the MHRA safety requirements. Actions undertaken included:**

- **implementation of a formal action plan.**
- **audit and review of patients prescribed valproate.**
- **identification and prioritisation of patients without up-to-date Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP) documentation.**
- **development and approval of a local Valproate policy.**
- **development of shared care arrangements.**
- **communication and engagement with GP practices, commissioned services, maternity services and specialist teams.**
- **review of referral pathways and escalation arrangements.**
- **development of training and awareness arrangements.**

- **repeat audit and ongoing monitoring arrangements.**

The records reviewed also demonstrate discussion and review of specific patient safety concerns, including pregnancy-related cases whilst prescribed valproate.

Q5. Any inclusion of MHRA regulations on Valproate on the Health Board risk register and reports of action taken - **We have not identified a specific risk register entry in relation to MHRA Valproate regulations within the records reviewed. However, the Valproate Oversight Group minutes demonstrate that the Health Board implemented a range of governance and risk mitigation actions in response to the MHRA requirements, including:**

- **establishment of the Valproate Oversight Group.**
- **implementation and monitoring of an action plan.**
- **patient audit and review activity.**
- **communication with GP practices and commissioned providers.**
- **development of local policy and shared care arrangements.**
- **commissioning and referral pathway clarification.**
- **maternity and specialist stakeholder engagement.**
- **training and awareness planning.**
- **planned re-audit and ongoing compliance monitoring.**

These actions formed part of the Health Board's governance and patient safety response to the MHRA valproate regulatory measures.

Q6. Any Health Board reports on stakeholder involvement on epilepsy or epilepsy and maternity and whether SUDEP Action included.- **Not applicable. PTHB does not have an epilepsy specialist service and does not hold epilepsy in pregnancy clinics or shared obstetric clinics.**

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/>

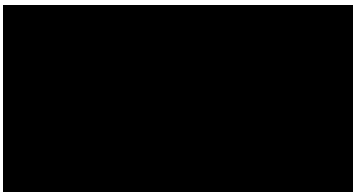
Re-use of Public Sector Information

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.

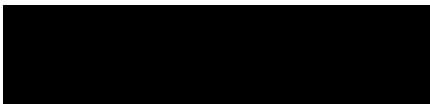
Under the terms of the Regulations, the Health Board will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms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

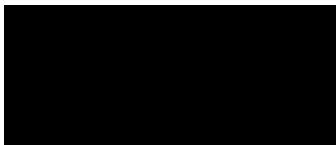
Yours sincerely



Amie Symes
Director of Midwifery, Women and Family



David Farnsworth
Assistant Director, Community Services Group



Kate Wright
Executive Medical Director

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.