

Reference:	FOI.20194.26
Subject:	Access to healthcare for home educating families,
Date of Request:	13 April 2026

Requested:

This request relates to policy and actual practice from 1st January 2024 to present day.

1. Can you assure confidentiality of access to healthcare for home educating families within your local health board area?
2. Can you assure home educating families that utilise primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare under your health board that their identifying data will not be routinely shared without explicit consent from the parents and/or children involved between your health board and
 - a. council education departments?
 - b. school nurse teams?
3. What information does your health board provide for healthcare services in your area about approach to home educating families, including data sharing,
4. In particular what assurances and information do you provide for healthcare services in your area to clarify that home education is not a safeguarding risk or “red flag” and should not be routinely treated as such.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it adheres to its Confidentiality Policy. The UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) as this information is accessible by another means. The following policy is available on the UHB’s website:

- Policy 172 – Confidentiality Policy

A link the UHB’s policies and written control documents webpage has been provided below:

[Policies and written control documents - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#)

2. Please see response to question 1. However, where a concern has been raised the UHB follows the All Wales Safeguarding procedure, Section 2 provides guidance on seeking consent. A link to the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures webpage is provided below:

[Safeguarding Wales](#)

3. The UHB does not hold the requested information as its School Nursing Service is currently working towards the implementation of the Welsh Government (WG) Healthy Child Wales Programme: for school age children, alongside other School Nursing Services in Wales. A link to the WG programme is provided below:

[Healthy Child Wales Programme for school aged children: introduction \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Additionally, the UHB is in the process of developing a tool in accordance with the WG Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI) to facilitate the sharing of non-clinical demographics between the UHB and the Local Authorities (LAs). Further information on WASPI is available on the WG website. A link to the relevant webpage is provided below:

[WASPI Home - Welsh Accord on Sharing of Personal Information](#)

4. Elective home education is not a safeguarding risk. However, where safeguarding concerns arise, these are considered and addressed through the application of professional curiosity, informed assessment of the presenting risks, the child and family's circumstances and any wider contextual factors. Therefore, safeguarding responses are based on evidence and professional judgement, not a child's education status, in line with the All Wales Safeguarding Procedure.