

Reference:	FOI.17274.25
Subject:	Borth Pharmacy and Borth Surgery
Date of Request:	7 May 2025

Requested:

1. Any correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, or internal communications between Hywel Dda UHB staff and/or external stakeholders relating to a dispute, conflict, or objection raised by Ian Gary Jones (owner of Borth Pharmacy) regarding an application made by Dr. Sue Fish (Borth Surgery) to change Borth Surgery to a dispensing GP practice.
2. Details of any formal applications or requests submitted by Borth Surgery or Dr. Sue Fish for dispensing status, and any objections received in response, particularly from Borth Pharmacy or Ian Gary Jones.
3. Any risk assessments, business case documents, or board discussions involving the potential or actual impact of converting Borth Surgery to a dispensing practice on local pharmacy services, particularly Borth Pharmacy.
4. Any relevant decisions or outcomes made by the Health Board regarding this matter.

Please provide records from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2023 to ensure full coverage of this issue.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To provide you with the information requested, the UHB would be required to contact several departments across the UHB and request a manual search of computer systems and email accounts to be undertaken to identify any information that may fulfil your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

Additionally, due to the broad requested time period of 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2023, some of the information requested may not be stored electronically and may be in paper based form and stored in offsite archives. Any information pertaining to your request that may be stored in this manner is not easily identifiable or accessible.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

Despite the challenges detailed within the above exemption, manual searches have been undertaken of the former Primary Care Application Committee (PCAC) meeting papers for the accessible period, from January 2016 to end of January 2020 when the committee was disestablished. A further search of the accessible Board meeting papers for the time period, 1

January 2020 to 31 December 2023 has also been undertaken, to identify any information relating to Borth Pharmacy and Borth Surgery. The UHB can confirm that the searches did not identify any information relevant to your request.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and may offer support and guidance to requestors to refine their request. The UHB suggests you consider refining your request to assist us in identifying any relevant information.

Refining may include, providing more specific details, such as a smaller time frame or the specific date the application would have been made to the UHB for Borth Surgery to become a dispensing practice.

Additionally, any specific contacts or application routes that may have been followed at the time. Unfortunately, processes have changed, and staff have departed their roles during the intervening period and the further detail would enable the Freedom of Information team to conduct more specific enquiries.

It is important to note that any information that was stored locally on computers by staff who are no longer be employed by the UHB, will not be accessible.