

5 December 2025

Dear

ATISN 26443 – Thrombectomy Services

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 3 December 2025.

You requested the following:

1. Withybush Hospital is commissioned with Southmead Hospital, Bristol to accept stroke patients for Thrombectomy's, please can you confirm what date this service started?
2. Please can you confirm the reasons why there is no commission in place for patient referrals from Withybush Hospital for thrombectomy's with Southmead Hospital between 10pm and 6am?
 - 2a. Who made that decision to not have a service?
 - 2b. And is there a patient safety report or analysis report to back the reasons no commission is in place? If so can I have a copy of this?
3. Since the Agreement came into place for Thrombectomy's, with Bristol, how many patients from Withybush were declined due to being referred outside the commissioned hours? Can the figures be broken down into monthly?
4. Of those declined referrals, what were the outcomes of those patients? Can the reasons be broken down?
5. Why is there no service in place other than Bristol for stroke patients to have thrombectomy's if between 10pm and 6am due to Bristol declining them? Due to patients being in life and death situations.

Our Response

- 1-5 The commissioning arrangements for access to thrombectomy are done via the Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC), formerly the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC).

Whilst Welsh Government meets with the JCC as part of our routine monitoring and assurance arrangements with NHS organisations in Wales, the commissioning activity and arrangements are not something Welsh Government is directly involved with. This a function of the JCC with providers of those commissioned services (North Bristol HNS Trust).

We would suggest you contact the JCC who meet with North Bristol NHS Trust, on behalf of Health Board Chief Executive Officers in Wales, to negotiate, manage and monitor the commissioning arrangements. Contact details are below.

Next Steps

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response.

We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process

Yours sincerely,