

14 April 2026

Dear

ATISN 26804 – Transgender Healthcare

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 17 March 2026 relating to Welsh Government's oversight of specialised commissioning policies for transgender healthcare and specifically Commissioning Policy CP43 (Facial Surgery).

You requested the following:

Correspondence on Policy Delays

- 1. Any correspondence (including emails, meeting minutes, or briefing notes) between the Welsh Government (Health and Social Services Department) and the WHSSC or NWJCC regarding the delay or suspension of the scheduled 2025 review of Policy CP43.*

Clinical Pressure Reports

- 2. Any reports, evidence, or formal notifications submitted to the Minister for Health and Social Services or Welsh Government officials justifying the delay of equality-related policy reviews for gender-affirming care due to "clinical pressures."*
- 3. Ministerial Guidance on EQIAs*
- 4. Any guidance or directives issued by the Welsh Government to the NWJCC or Health Boards regarding the legal requirement to maintain and review Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) during the April 2024 restructuring of specialized services.*
- 5. PSED Compliance Monitoring*
- 6. Any records of Welsh Government audits or monitoring exercises conducted to ensure that the NWJCC is meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in relation to the provision of gender-affirming surgery.*

For clarity, "documentation" includes formal reports, emails, briefing notes, or other recorded information held by the organisation.

Our Response

Having searched our records, Welsh Government does not hold information that falls into scope of your request.

However, you may wish to note that we have located the following lines which are located within the technical guidance that accompanied the Planning Frameworks on the requirement for each NHS organisation to undertake EQIAs:

‘Health Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments are essential to understanding variation in delivery in terms of who can access, and how people access health and care services is key to ensuring equitable delivery. Vulnerable groups, poverty, areas of deprivation and the level of quality and timeliness of services will all be factors that organisations must take into account while planning services.

Boards will need to be assured that decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its function are in line with the Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2025, which will come into force on 6 April 2027, and that Equality Impact Assessments and Welsh Language Impact Assessments are informing necessary actions and are set out in the plan to tackle and eliminate inequalities.’

Also, the section on National Equality Plans states:

‘National Equality Plans - The NHS Wales Planning Framework also highlights the due regard that must be paid to and action that must be taken by NHS organisation in relation to the wider equalities agenda. This includes the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, the LGBTQ+ Action Plan, the Disabled People’s Rights Action Plan, and the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Blueprints, as well as the implementation of the All Wales Accessible Communication and Information Standards in healthcare.’

As previously advised, the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) commissions all gender reassignment surgery on behalf of local health boards through NHS England. Therefore, any queries related the commissioning process would be more appropriately directed to the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) or the health boards. You can contact the NWJCC on the following email address: nwjcc@wales.nhs.uk and the following link provides contact points for each health board: [Contact Us - NHS Wales](#)

Next Steps

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,