

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 22-466	14 th October 2022
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I wish to make a freedom of information request.

Best practice dictates that, having been seen by a medic, the resulting letter should be sent to the person involved. Why is this not happening with the medics of the South Monmouthshire Community Mental Health Team, based at Hywel Dda in Chepstow?

Hywel Da is the name of the building the South Monmouthshire CMHT is housed in.

The Division of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities does not have a fixed policy around the sharing of medical clinic correspondence. In the UK, the GP has ongoing medical responsibility for a patient, with doctors in secondary and tertiary care services reporting back to the GP as the central point of contact. It is good and accepted practice for secondary care doctors to update the GP of any other medical involvement.

A person's health record (i.e. the clinical notes kept by NHS services about a person's clinical assessments, diagnoses, interventions etc) is kept by the NHS but is accessible by that person at any time via a 'Subject Access Request' to the appropriate Health Board (in Wales) or GP practice. There are some circumstances whereby legislation supports that some elements of a person's Health Record can be withheld from them (such as information from a third party).

The Health Board at this current time, does not have a policy that dictates a person's psychiatrist must copy the person into letters to their GP, neither is there a policy which states they should not. If a patient would like to be copied into letters sent to their GP about their care, they can ask their treating psychiatrist for this to be undertaken.