

Date: 19th January 2026
Ref: CORP 25/26 - 225

Dear xxx

Freedom of Information request: Brain Cancer freezer units (CORP 25/26 - 225)

Thank you for your request for information which the Trust received on 22nd December 2025.

Your Request:

1. *Does your Trust hold a record or inventory of medical-grade freezer units used for the storage of biological, histopathology, research, or biobanking tissue samples?*
 - a. *If yes, please provide the (a) number of units and (b) storage temperature category (for example -20°C, -80°C)*
2. *Are any of these freezer units currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples?*
 - a. *If yes, please state (a) the number of units used for brain tissue and (b) the typical storage temperature used.*
3. *Regardless of current use, does the Trust have freezer units capable of supporting fresh- or flash- frozen brain tissue storage that is suitable for therapeutic development.*
 - a. *Does the Trust currently have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue?*
4. *Only if feasible within the FOI time and cost limit, please indicate whether any existing freezer unit in the Trust could be repurposed or shared between departments to enable brain tissue storage or expand current capacity.*

Please find the Trust's response below:

Responses for the Welsh Blood Service can be found in Appendix 1 below.

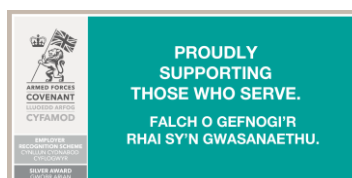
For Velindre Cancer Services, the response is as follows:

1. **Does your Trust hold a record or inventory of medical-grade freezer units used for the storage of biological, histopathology, research, or biobanking tissue samples?**
 - a. **If yes, please provide the (a) number of units and (b) storage temperature category (for example -20°C, -80°C)**

Within Velindre Cancer Services (VCS), Research Service Clinical Research Treatment Unit (CRTU), the following medical-grade freezer units are held for research-related activity:

- Three freezers at -80°C
- One freezer at -20°C

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2. **Are any of these freezer units currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples?**
a. **If yes, please state (a) the number of units used for brain tissue and (b) the typical storage temperature used.**

No. None of the CRTU freezer units are currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples.

3. **Regardless of current use, does the Trust have freezer units capable of supporting fresh- or flash- frozen brain tissue storage that is suitable for therapeutic development.**
a. **Does the Trust currently have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue?**

The CRTU does not currently have any rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue. While CRTU freezer units may be technically capable of storing frozen tissue, suitability for fresh- or flash-frozen brain tissue for therapeutic development would be dependent on specific legal, regulatory, governance, and tissue storage requirements.

4. **Only if feasible within the FOI time and cost limit, please indicate whether any existing freezer unit in the Trust could be repurposed or shared between departments to enable brain tissue storage or expand current capacity.**

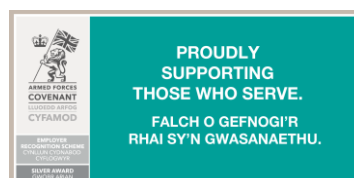
Whether any existing CRTU freezer unit could be repurposed or shared would depend on the applicable legal, regulatory, and storage requirements for the tissue in question. The Trust's Research Service would need to review these requirements to determine feasibility. As such, no determination can be made at this time.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. Please note that you must submit a request for a review within 40 days of the date of this letter.

You should forward your complaint to:

Mr Ian Bevan via FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk
Head of Information Governance
Velindre University NHS Trust
2, Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff
CF15 7QZ

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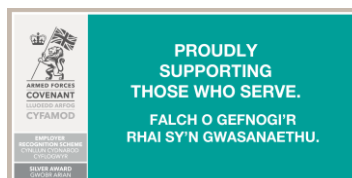
Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff,
CF10 2HH
Telephone: 0330 414 6421
email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Non Gwilym
Interim Director of Corporate Governance
Velindre University NHS Trust
2 Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff
CF15 7QZ

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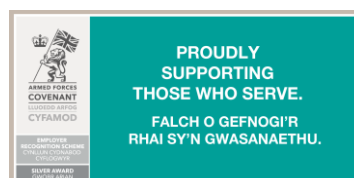


APPENDIX 1 – WELSH BLOOD SERVICE.

1. Does your Trust hold a record or inventory of medical-grade freezer units used for the storage of biological, histopathology, research, or biobanking tissue samples?
 - a. If yes, please provide the (a) number of units and (b) storage temperature category (for example -20°C, -80°C)

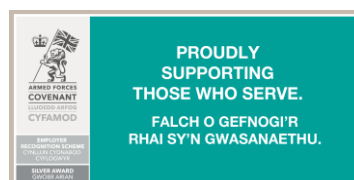
| <u>Freezer Title</u> | <u>Operating range</u> | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>High Critical</u> | <u>Low Critical</u> |
| QA0_01_FZ1 | -28 | -49.6 |
| TT1_01_FZ4 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_01_FZ3 | -18 | -30 |
| TT1_01_FZ2 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_01_FZ1 | -20 | -35 |
| TT1_04_FZ1 | -18 | -30 |
| TT1_05_FZ1 | -30 | -50 |
| TT1_13_FZ7 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_13_FZ6 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_13_FZ5 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_13_FZ4 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_13_FZ3 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_13_FZ2 | -50 | -95 |
| TT1_13_FZ1 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ9 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ10 | -55 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ11 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ12 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ13 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ14 | -40 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ15 | -30 | -50 |
| NB1_09_FZ7 | -55 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ6 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ5 | -30 | -50 |
| NB1_09_FZ4 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ2 | -50 | -95 |
| NB1_09_FZ1 | -50 | -95 |
| BC0_10_FZ5 | -28 | -49.6 |

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| <u>Freezer Title</u> | <u>Operating range</u> | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>High Critical</u> | <u>Low Critical</u> |
| BC0_10_FZ8 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_10_FZ9 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_10_FZ10 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_10_FZ1 | -28 | -49.6 |
| B10_08_FZ2 | -50 | -65 |
| B10_09_FZ7 | -25 | -49.6 |
| B10_09_FZ4 | -28 | -49.6 |
| B10_09_FZ2 | -28 | -49.6 |
| B10_09_FZ1 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ12 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ3 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ11 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ15 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ10 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ2 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ9 | -18 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ1 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ14 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ8 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ13 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ6 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_01_FZ7 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_08_FZ4 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_08_FZ6 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_08_FZ8 - (Blast Freezer) | -25 | -100 |
| BC0_08_FZ7 (Blast Freezer) | -25 | -100 |
| BC0_08_FZ9 (Blast Freezer) | -25 | -100 |
| B10_08_FZ1 | -50 | -65 |
| RS0_02_FZ2 | -10 | -49 |
| RS0_02_FZ3 | -10 | -49 |
| RS0_02_FZ5 | -10 | -49 |
| RS0_02_FZ19 | -10 | -49 |
| RS0_02_FZ21 | -10 | -49 |
| RS0_02_FZ14 | -10 | -49 |

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| <u>Freezer Title</u> | <u>Operating range</u> | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>High Critical</u> | <u>Low Critical</u> |
| RS0_02_FZ15 | -61 | -92 |
| RS0_02_FZ9 | -10 | -49 |
| RS0_02_FZ18 | -61 | -92 |
| RS0_02_FZ1 | -61 | -92 |
| RS0_02_FZ20 | -10 | -49 |
| BC0_10_FZ11 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_10_FZ12 | -28 | -49.6 |
| TT1_02_FZ1 | -15 | -30 |
| BC0_10_FZ13 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_10_FZ14 | -28 | -49.6 |
| MB0_01_FZ1 | -25 | -49 |
| AS0_02_FZ1 | -25 | -49 |
| AS0_02_FZ2 | -25 | -49 |
| TT1_01_FZ5 | -18 | -30 |
| BC0_10_FZ15 | -28 | -49.6 |
| BC0_10_FZ16 | -28 | -49.6 |

2. Are any of these freezer units currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples?
- a. If yes, please state (a) the number of units used for brain tissue and (b) the typical storage temperature used.

Three of the devices listed in the table above are identified as having blast freezing capability.

3. Regardless of current use, does the Trust have freezer units capable of supporting fresh- or flash- frozen brain tissue storage that is suitable for therapeutic development?
- a. Does the Trust currently have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue?

The WBS has no devices validated for the supporting fresh or frozen brain tissue storage suitable for therapeutic development.

4. Only if feasible within the FOI time and cost limit, please indicate whether any existing freezer unit in the Trust could be repurposed or shared between departments to enable brain tissue storage or expand current capacity.

The WBS has no capacity that could be repurposed or shared to enable brain storage.

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