

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date 27 May 2026  
Your Ref FOI-2026-3356  
Our Ref FOI-2026-3356

Enquiries to [REDACTED]  
Email [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot)

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3356**

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 29 April 2026 requesting the following information:

**I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information covering the period 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2026.**

- 1. Correspondence - Copies of correspondence (including emails, letters, meeting minutes, and briefing papers) between NHS Scotland bodies (including National Procurement, individual Health Boards, and Scottish Government Health Directorates, where applicable) and:**
  - **Manufacturers of psoralen**
  - **Suppliers or distributors of psoralen**
  
- 2. Supply and risk documentation - Documents and records relating to:**
  - **Known or anticipated shortages of psoralen**
  - **Risks relating to product expiry dates**
  - **Mitigation planning or contingency discussions**
  - **Quality assurance issues, delays, or regulatory actions affecting supply**
  
- 3. Service impact records - Any records of previous interruptions or disruptions to PUVA (psoralen + ultraviolet A) treatment in Scotland that were attributable to psoralen availability.**
  
- 4. Oversight responsibility - Information identifying the organisation, team, or role responsible for national-level oversight of psoralen supply within NHS Scotland.**

**If any information is withheld, please clearly specify the exemption(s) applied and provide the reasoning in line with the requirements of the Act. I would prefer to receive the information in electronic format.**

Chair Mr Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

We have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

**1. Correspondence - Copies of correspondence (including emails, letters, meeting minutes, and briefing papers) between NHS Scotland bodies (including National Procurement, individual Health Boards, and Scottish Government Health Directorates, where applicable) and:**

• **Manufacturers of psoralen**

Under [Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act, 2002 \(FOISA\)](#), an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSDS), formerly NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) does not hold any correspondence between NHSScotland Bodies or Scottish Government and manufacturers of Psoralen.

• **Suppliers or distributors of psoralen**

We have identified relevant correspondence in the form of tender documentation, evaluation materials, and associated communications with suppliers relating to the procurement of Methoxsalen 10mg tablets via the [NP42824 Unlicensed Imported Medicines](#) Framework (2024) and [NP42820 Unlicensed Imported Medicines](#) Framework (2020).

Under [Section 33\(1\)\(b\) of the Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002 \(FOISA\)](#), this correspondence is being withheld as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of suppliers and/or NHS Scotland. This exemption has been applied to protect the integrity of the procurement process and the legitimate commercial interests of all parties. The information withheld includes:

- Detailed pricing information, including pricing structures, rates, and financial models
- Commercially sensitive contractual terms, including terms relating to liability, risk allocation, and performance arrangements
- Full tender submissions, including method statements, technical specifications, innovations, and proprietary methodologies provided by suppliers
- Clarifications, negotiations, and all related tender correspondence between NHS Scotland and suppliers throughout the procurement process
- Evaluation scoring methodologies, moderation discussions, and detailed assessment records where these reveal commercially sensitive insights or benchmarking positions
- Information which would reveal suppliers' competitive strategies, capability assessments, or market positioning
- The framework agreement remains active and in operational use by NHS Scotland, and disclosure of the requested information would be likely to impact future procurement exercises

Although one of the contracts awarded under the framework has now concluded, this does not remove the commercial sensitivity of the information. The framework itself remains live, and the terms, pricing structures, evaluation approaches, and supplier submissions continue to underpin ongoing and future procurements. Disclosure at this stage would risk

revealing information that could be used by competitors to gain a commercial advantage in future bids or call-off competitions.

We have applied the public interest test and recognise the public interest in transparency and accountability in public procurement. However, this is outweighed by the need to protect fair competition and supplier confidence in NHS procurement processes.

## **2. Supply and risk documentation - Documents and records relating to:**

- **Known or anticipated shortages of psoralen**
- **Risks relating to product expiry dates**
- **Mitigation planning or contingency discussions**
- **Quality assurance issues, delays, or regulatory actions affecting supply**

Please find attached Appendix 1 - Meladinine (Methoxsalen) Shortage\_Redacted, which is an email trail discussing 'known or anticipated shortages of Psoralen'. This is the only documentation we hold in relation to any shortages.

Under [Section 38 \(1\) \(b\) of FOISA](#), which exempts third party personal data from disclosure where release would contravene the data protection principles set out in the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act, 2018, redaction has been carried out on names and direct contact details as this group of individuals have no expectation that their personal information would be disclosed into the public domain. Disclosure of this personal information would contravene Article 5(1)(a) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, where personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

Under [Section 17 of FOISA](#), an organisation does not need to provide that information if it does not hold it. PSDS does not hold any information in relation to; 'Risks relating to product expiry dates', 'Mitigation planning or contingency discussions' or 'Quality assurance issues, delays, or regulatory actions affecting supply'.

## **3. Service impact records - Any records of previous interruptions or disruptions to PUVA (psoralen + ultraviolet A) treatment in Scotland that were attributable to psoralen availability.**

Under [Section 17 of FOISA](#), an organisation does not need to provide that information if it does not hold it. PSDS does not hold any information in relation to interruptions or disruptions to PUVA (psoralen + ultraviolet A) treatment in Scotland that were attributable to psoralen availability.

## **4. Oversight responsibility - Information identifying the organisation, team, or role responsible for national-level oversight of psoralen supply within NHS Scotland.**

NHS National Procurement procure medicines for use in Scottish hospitals on behalf of health boards. National Procurement leads on contract and supply management for products on national supply frameworks.

From a number of presentations of Psoralens available; only Methoxsalen 10mg tablets are known to have been procured at NHS Scotland level. Where a medicine is not included in

an NHS Scotland supply Framework, the Health Boards source the product directly from wholesalers/importers.

From 1 April 2026, NSS and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) joined to form PSD Scotland, enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. More information regarding PSD Scotland can be found at the following URL:

[Public Services Delivery Scotland \(PSD Scotland\)](#)

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot).

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Corporate Governance using the email address [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot) within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

