

[REDACTED]

Date 29 April 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3354
Our Ref FOI-2026-3354

Enquiries to [REDACTED]
Email psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3354

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 28 April 2026 requesting the following information:

I would like to understand how your organisation has engaged independent (non-NHS) providers in the delivery of mental health services, including psychological therapy, ADHD assessments, and autism assessments.

Please provide the following information for the past five years:

1. Engagement of Independent Providers

a) A list of all independent/private organisations commissioned, contracted, or otherwise engaged to deliver:

- **Psychological therapy services**
- **ADHD assessment and/or treatment services**
- **Autism assessment services**

b) For each organisation identified, please provide:

- **The name of the organisation**
- **The type of services delivered**
- **The start and end date of the arrangement (or confirmation if ongoing)**

2. Nature of the Arrangement

For each provider listed, please specify:

- The mechanism of engagement (e.g. formal contract, service level agreement, framework agreement, direct award, spot purchasing, individual patient funding, pilot programme, or other)
- Whether the arrangement was established via a competitive tender process, framework agreement, or non-competitive route
- If non-competitive, the rationale for this approach (where recorded)
- Contractual and Financial Information
For each arrangement, please provide:
 - The total contract value, or total spend to date (annual breakdown if available)
 - The duration of the agreement
 - Any available high-level description of pricing structure (e.g. per-assessment, block contract, per-session rate), where not exempt under Section 33

4. Activity and Service Use

Where available, please provide:

- The number of referrals made to each provider
- The type of patients referred (e.g. adult, CAMHS, complex cases, waiting list initiatives)
- Whether these services were used as part of a waiting list reduction initiative or service pressure response

5. Governance and Decision-Making

a) Please outline the internal process by which independent providers are approved or engaged within your organisation

b) Please provide the job titles (not individual names) of the roles responsible for:

- Commissioning or approving such arrangements
- Managing relationships with independent providers
- Overseeing clinical governance of outsourced services

c) Where possible, please provide generic contact routes (e.g. departmental email addresses) for these functions

6. Supporting Documentation

Please provide copies of, or links to:

- Any service specifications, agreements, or memoranda of understanding with independent providers (redacted as appropriate)
- Any internal policies or guidance relating to the use of independent providers for these services

- **Any documentation relating to pilot programmes or waiting list initiatives involving external providers**

7. Additional Context

If available, please provide:

- **Any evaluation, audit, or outcome data relating to the use of independent providers**
- **Any stated future plans to expand, reduce, or change the use of independent providers for these services**

From 1 April 2026, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) joined to form Public Services Delivery Scotland (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 note that you have sent the above request to both NSS (FOI-2026-3354) and NES (FOI-2026-3355), and as such under the [FOISA Section 14\(2\) exemption for "Repeated Requests"](#) PSD Scotland has rejected this request and will issue a response to you under FOI request reference FOI-2026-3355 within the legislative 20 working day timeline of 28 May 2026.

If you require further information in relation to this FOISA response letter, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address 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 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,

