

██████████
Letter issued by email

Date: 19 May 2026
Our Ref: FOI2026-3353
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information
Email: psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear ██████████

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2026-3353

Thank you for your information request received on 27 April 2026 by Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland).

From 1 April 2026, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) joined to form Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland), enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. This means your Freedom of Information request is now being responded to by PSD Scotland.

I wish to advise under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), that PSD Scotland can provide a full response to your request, as detailed below.

Your Request

The training requirements for urological surgical procedures in Scotland:

1. Does the national training curriculum for urology registrars in Scotland mandate a specific number of "freehand sutured" procedures, or is proficiency in "automated stapling" methods recognized as a clinical equivalent?

The number of urology procedures is not mandated in the current curriculum or within CCT (Certificate of Completion of Training) guidance.

2. Has NES issued any guidance to Health Boards regarding the use of disposable circular staplers (e.g., ZSR) as a training tool for junior doctors or Advanced Nurse Practitioners?

PSD Scotland has not issued any guidance to health boards for resident doctors in training, or Advanced Nurse Practitioners, regarding the use of disposable circular staplers. Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held by PSD Scotland.

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

3. What is the NES position on the "training excuse" as a barrier to adopting high-efficiency surgical technology in Day Case units?

Although your request does not specify what would constitute a 'training excuse,' PSD Scotland (formerly NES) has not been made aware of the 'training excuse' being given as a barrier to adopting high-efficiency surgical technology in Day Case Units. Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held by PSD Scotland.

If you are dissatisfied with this reply under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you should contact us again in writing or by email within 40 days of receipt of this response to request an internal review.

If you remain unhappy with the outcome of that internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision within six months of receiving our response. For further information, please visit the Scottish Information Commissioner's [website](#).

Yours sincerely

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