

Freedom of Information (FOI) Reference: FOI2026-3355 – Appendix B
Contextual education and training information, including advice and assistance
Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland)

1. Context of education and training within PSD Scotland¹

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme consists of six workstreams:

- Mental health, including, mental health improvement, and prevention of self-harm and suicide.
- Adults with Incapacity Legislation.
- Autism and neurodivergence across the lifespan.
- Dementia.
- Learning Disabilities.
- Spiritual Care.

The programme supports learning and development for people and teams across a range of professions, roles, sectors, and setting. The programmes work is driven by collaboration with many internal and external stakeholders.

Psychology within PSD Scotland has two major areas of responsibility:

- Training of psychologists for NHS Scotland.
- Upskilling the existing multi-professional workforce in psychological care and practice.

As such, PSD Scotland has responsibility for commissioning pre-registration training for clinical and applied psychology for NHS Scotland. This involves partnership working with the Scottish Government, health boards, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), third sector organisations, alongside a broad range of commissioned delivery partners across Scotland. The work includes:

- Pre registration professional education and training.
- Post registration and continuing professional development (CPD).
- Workforce upskilling and multidisciplinary learning.
- A wide range of programme formats, including:
 - o Multi year professional training programmes.
 - o Day release and part time study.
 - o Short courses and bite sized learning.
 - o Online, blended and in person delivery.

This work supports a range of professional groups and is delivered in partnership with stakeholders across the system.

¹ This involves former NHS Education for Scotland, as one of the predecessor organisations of Public Services Delivery Scotland.

2. Use of external/independent providers

Where appropriate, PSD Scotland may engage with independent (non NHS) providers to support the delivery of specific elements of education and training activity. Whilst the vast majority of expenditure is within NHS Scotland and HEIs, further external providers are typically engaged where there is a specific requirement for specialist expertise or capacity not already available within the NHS.

Given the remit of PSD Scotland, engagement is typically related to education, training or workforce development, rather than direct clinical service delivery.

3. Procurement, governance and assurance

All engagement of independent providers is undertaken in line with:

- Scottish Government procurement regulations and policy.
- PSDS Standing Financial Instructions and internal governance processes.
- Established procurement routes.

Internally, there is established processes to:

- Ensure appropriate approval of commissioned activity, via a Strategic Leadership Team.
- Evidence value for money and transparency.
- Support compliance with procurement and governance requirements.

Where external providers are engaged, delivery is overseen by workstream Heads of Programmes, with appropriate governance arrangements in place.

4. Advice and assistance

If you wish to refine your request to bring it within the cost limits, you may wish to:

- Limit the scope to a specific workstream, e.g. autism, and the timeline to the last year, and;
- Focus on a smaller subset of information.