

Letter issued by email

Date: 19 October 2026
Our Ref: FOI2026-3498
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information
Email: psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2026-3498

Thank you for your information request received on 21 September 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 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.

Your Request

I am looking for some information relating to the tender run by NHS Education for Scotland in 2019 for the Development and Delivery of a BSc (Hons.) Programme for Paramedics.

I have managed to find the earlier draft specification and supplier information from 2018 on Public Contracts Scotland, but I have not been able to find the final tender documents.

Could you please provide the following:

- 1. A copy of the final Invitation to Tender and final specification issued to the universities.*
- 2. Any parts of the final tender documents relating to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), previous learning or experience, advanced standing, or entry into Year 2 for existing ambulance technicians.*
- 3. The successful universities' responses to those parts of the tender.*
- 4. Any scoring or evaluation records showing how those parts of the universities' responses were assessed.*

I believe the procurement reference was C001738 and the title was Development and Delivery of a BSc (Hons.) Programme for Paramedics.

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

I am happy for any personal information, or information that is properly exempt from disclosure, to be redacted where necessary.

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

1. A copy of the final Invitation to Tender and final specification issued to the universities.

A copy of the tender documents relevant to your question are attached:

- Part 1 - Invitation to Tender
- Part 2 - Tender Specification
- Part 3 – Evaluation Criteria
- Part 4 – Terms and Conditions

2. Any parts of the final tender documents relating to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), previous learning or experience, advanced standing, or entry into Year 2 for existing ambulance technicians.

The below text is included within the 'Part 2 Tender Specification' document:

'The successful supplier(s) will also be required to demonstrate arrangements with local colleges to enable widening participation through access programmes. In addition, there is a requirement to confirm the eligibility of current technician staff to obtain recognition of their current qualification and experience, and therefore enter the programme directly into year 2'

3. The successful universities' responses to those parts of the tender.

PSD Scotland holds information falling within the scope of your request. However, we consider that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 33(1)(b) of the FOISA.

The information comprises material submitted by universities as part of a competitive procurement process and contains details of their methodologies and implementation processes.

We consider that disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of the universities concerned. Disclosure would reveal aspects of their tender submissions which could be used by competitors in future procurement exercises and may undermine their ability to compete effectively for similar contracts. The information was provided within the context of a competitive tendering exercise and retains commercial sensitivity.

Section 33(1)(b) is subject to the public interest test. We recognise that there is a public interest in openness, transparency and accountability regarding the expenditure of

public funds and the award of public contracts. However, we consider that there is a greater public interest in protecting the legitimate commercial interests of suppliers and in ensuring that public authorities can continue to obtain detailed and candid submissions from bidders during procurement exercises. Disclosure of commercially sensitive information would be likely to prejudice future procurement activity and the ability of public bodies to secure best value. Therefore, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Accordingly, the information has been withheld under section 33(1)(b) of FOISA.

4. Any scoring or evaluation records showing how those parts of the universities' responses were assessed.

Any evaluation undertaken to meet the criteria (as recorded in answer to question 2) would have been recorded under section 1.2 of the evaluation record 'Proposed approach to satisfy the specification'. This section would have included multiple other specifications within the bid process and an overall score applied.

A search has been undertaken of all successful bid evaluations and there was no specific content recorded and scored within scope of recognition of prior learning (RPL), previous learning or experience, advanced standing, or entry into year 2 for existing ambulance technicians.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA scoring or evaluation specific to the above content is not held.

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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