

[REDACTED]
Letter issued by email

Date: 21 October 2026
Our Ref: FOI2026-3505
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information
Email: psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2026-3505

Thank you for your information request received on 24 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

For the period 1 January 2015 to the date of this request, please provide:

1. *Copies of any training materials, e-learning resources, learning modules, presentations, teaching materials, guidance or educational resources produced or commissioned by NHS Education for Scotland which specifically address:*
 - *surrogate pregnancies;*
 - *maternity care of surrogate mothers;*
 - *babies born through surrogacy;*
 - *intended parents;*
 - *parental orders or legal parenthood following a surrogate birth.*
2. *For each relevant course, module or educational resource, please provide:*
 - *the date it was introduced;*
 - *the staff groups for whom it was intended;*
 - *whether completion was mandatory or optional;*
 - *annual numbers of completions or participants, where held.*
3. *Please state whether surrogacy currently forms part of any national NHS Scotland education or training programme for midwives, maternity staff or neonatal staff.*

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

4. *Where surrogacy appears within a broader training programme or curriculum, please provide the relevant section or learning outcome.*
5. *Correspondence, meeting notes, proposals or briefing papers since 1 January 2018 concerning whether NHS staff require education or training specifically relating to surrogacy.*
6. *Correspondence since 1 January 2018 between NES and:*
 - *the Scottish Government;*
 - *territorial NHS boards;*
 - *Public Health Scotland;*
 - *Healthcare Improvement Scotland;*

concerning education or training on surrogacy, surrogate births or the involvement of intended parents in maternity/neonatal care.

7. *The number and nature of requests received from NHS boards, the Scottish Government or professional groups since 2018 asking NES to develop training, guidance or educational resources relating to surrogacy.*
8. *Any record considering the need for national training because of differences in the frequency with which individual NHS boards or staff encounter surrogate pregnancies.*
9. *Please state whether the education provided or supported by NES addresses legal issues that may arise following a surrogate birth, including:*
 - *legal parenthood immediately after birth;*
 - *consent to medical treatment for a newborn;*
 - *disclosure of information to intended parents;*
 - *discharge arrangements;*
 - *confidentiality.*

To keep electronic searches proportionate, I am content for searches to be limited initially to teams responsible for maternal health, midwifery, neonatal education and women's health, using the terms:

surrogacy / surrogate / intended parent / parental order

If NES holds no surrogacy-specific resources or training, please confirm this.

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. Copies of any training materials, e-learning resources, learning modules, presentations, teaching materials, guidance or educational resources produced or commissioned by NHS Education for Scotland which specifically address:

- a. surrogate pregnancies;**
- b. maternity care of surrogate mothers;**
- c. babies born through surrogacy;**
- d. intended parents;**
- e. parental orders or legal parenthood following a surrogate birth.**

PSD Scotland has not produced or commissioned materials or resources which specifically address these areas.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held.

NES (now PSD Scotland) hosted five webinars over 2023 and 2025, with an organisation named 'LGBT Mummies', aimed at health professionals within Scotland.

Surrogacy was mentioned during the webinars as part of a potential family creation journey, but there was no specific learning outcome related to surrogacy. Details of LGBT Mummies resources (attached), mentions surrogacy on page 5 (circled).

2. For each relevant course, module or educational resource, please provide:

- a. the date it was introduced;**
- b. the staff groups for whom it was intended;**
- c. whether completion was mandatory or optional;**
- d. annual numbers of completions or participants, where held.**

As detailed above, PSD Scotland has not provided any materials or resources specific to the scope of the topics detailed in question.1.

The webinars which PSD Scotland participated in were all optional, with sessions targeted at specific staff groups; predominantly health visitors and pre-registration midwifery students (year 3).

3. Please state whether surrogacy currently forms part of any national NHS Scotland education or training programme for midwives, maternity staff or neonatal staff.

Surrogacy does not form part of any national education or training programmes for midwives, maternity staff or neonatal staff provided by PSD Scotland.

4. Where surrogacy appears within a broader training programme or curriculum, please provide the relevant section or learning outcome.

Surrogacy does not appear within a broader training programme or curriculum.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held.

5. Correspondence, meeting notes, proposals or briefing papers since 1 January 2018 concerning whether NHS staff require education or training specifically relating to surrogacy.

There is no correspondence, meeting notes, proposals or briefing papers relating to surrogacy and staff education or training.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held by PSD Scotland.

6. Correspondence since 1 January 2018 between NES and:

- a. the Scottish Government;**
- b. territorial NHS boards;**
- c. Public Health Scotland;**
- d. Healthcare Improvement Scotland;**

concerning education or training on surrogacy, surrogate births or the involvement of intended parents in maternity/neonatal care.

There is no correspondence, meeting notes, proposals or briefing papers between PSD Scotland or its predecessor NES, and the named organisations regarding staff education or training on surrogacy, surrogate births or the involvement of intended parents in maternity/neonatal care.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held.

7. The number and nature of requests received from NHS boards, the Scottish Government or professional groups since 2018 asking NES to develop training, guidance or educational resources relating to surrogacy.

There have been no requests received asking for the development of training, guidance or educational resources relating to surrogacy.

8. Any record considering the need for national training because of differences in the frequency with which individual NHS boards or staff encounter surrogate pregnancies.

There are no records which consider the need for national training.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA this information is not held.

9. Please state whether the education provided or supported by NES addresses legal issues that may arise following a surrogate birth, including:

- a. legal parenthood immediately after birth;**
- b. consent to medical treatment for a newborn;**
- c. disclosure of information to intended parents;**
- d. discharge arrangements;**
- e. confidentiality.**

There is no education provided by PSD Scotland on any of these potential issues relating to a surrogate birth.

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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