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NHS SCOTLAND

[redacted]
Letter issued by email

Date: 09 November 2026
Our Ref: FOI2026-3532
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information
Email: psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2026-3532

Thank you for your information request received on 19 October 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

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please provide the number of new GP trainees who commenced GP specialty training in each year from 2016 to the latest available year, including:

1. *The total number across Scotland.*
2. *A breakdown of that total by territorial NHS health board.*

Please interpret "new GP trainees" as doctors commencing GP specialty training for the first time, normally at ST1, rather than the total number of trainees across all training years or the number of advertised training places.

Please provide calendar-year figures where held. If your records use training or recruitment years instead, please provide the information on that basis and specify the reporting periods used. For any incomplete year, please state the cut-off date.

For the health board breakdown, please explain how trainees are allocated to boards. If this breakdown is not held, please provide the closest available geographical breakdown and explain its basis.

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

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.

The figures presented in the below table are by calendar year of commencement and include GP trainees commencing in both the February and August intake periods within each calendar year.

Under Section 17 of the FOISA PSD Scotland do not hold information recording GP specialty training by health board. The trainees are not appointed to one specific health board and can rotate to different health boards during their training. The information is recorded by training region.

Year	East of Scotland	North of Scotland	South East of Scotland	West of Scotland	Total
2016	21	43	60	117	241
2017	23	48	95	127	293
2018	23	61	78	131	293
2019	20	49	69	156	294
2020	45	54	83	160	342
2021	34	42	93	152	321
2022	33	49	78	170	330
2023	37	55	80	174	346
2024	34	61	90	163	348
2025	37	55	106	192	390
2026 *	37	66	76	179	358

* The GP recruitment round for February 2027 start dates remains live, with recruitment ongoing. The figures above do not include trainees commencing in February 2027.

A GP and Public Health training programme commenced in 2025 and the following number of trainees were appointed:

Year	North of Scotland	South East of Scotland	West of Scotland	Total
2025	1	0	1	2
2026	0	1	1	2

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

[redacted]