NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 22 January 2019.

NHS Tayside wishes to advise you that there are exemptions applicable to the information requested. Please refer to the exemptions section of this correspondence.

**Extract from Request**

“I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2002) and hope you will be able to provide information electronically.

1. Does the health board have a policy on providing period products during menstruation, for free, to inpatients in hospitals/clinics? If yes, please provide a copy of this policy.

2. Does the health board have a policy on providing period products for staff, for free? If yes, please provide a copy of this policy.

3. Can you provide details of what happens if a patient runs short of period products during a hospital stay? Is there a process by which the hospital/clinic in question will provide these products – if yes, please provide full details of what the process is.

4. Can you provide information regarding the cost to the health board to provide period products in a) the current financial year (2018/19), and b) projected for the next financial year (2019/20)”

**Response**

1, 2&3. NHS Tayside does not have a policy specific to the provision of sanitary products during menstruation.

Sanitary products are available and provided for patients as required.

4. Please see costs below for spend on female sanitary products. Budgets for 2019/20 have not yet been approved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Spend £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2013</td>
<td>732.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>1,577.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>1,804.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>1,703.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>1,879.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>1,593.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/2019 (to date)</td>
<td>903.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA5844</td>
<td>Section 17 – Information not held</td>
<td>Information surrounding budgets for 2019/20 have not yet been approved, therefore they will not be provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Tayside has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commission.

A request for an internal review must be made in writing no later than forty working days from receipt of this response and addressed to:

Tayside NHS Board Secretary  
Tayside NHS Board Headquarters  
Ninewells Hospital & Medical School  
Dundee  
DD1 9SY

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Or via the online appeal service: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal
If you have any queries about this correspondence, please contact:

Information Governance Team
Maryfield House
30 Mains Loan
Dundee
DD4 7BT

Telephone - 01382 424413
E-mail: informationgovernance.tayside@nhs.net

Information Governance
NHS Tayside
04 February 2019