Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Response to correspondence dated 23 January 2019
Request: Patients registered with GP through Practitioner Services
Applicant: Parliament
Reference: IGTFOISA5870

NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 23 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
“May I request the number of patients based in Forfar who registered for a GP through the Aberdeen Practitioner since all Forfar GP surgery lists closed. May this be broken down by week of registration.

May I also request all email communication between the Health Minister, Jeane Freeman, and NHS Tayside (Or relevant bodies) over the closure of Forfar’s GP surgery lists.”

Response

Information surrounding number of patients based in Forfar who registered for a GP through the Aberdeen Practitioner and a breakdown of week of registration is not held by NHS Tayside. This information will be held by Practitioner Services; therefore you will have to re-direct your request to them.

Please see following link for Practitioners Services

https://nhsnss.org/services/practitioner/medical/contact-us/

Please see appended below redacted correspondence between the Scottish Government and NHS Tayside.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA5870</td>
<td>Section 17 – Information not held</td>
<td>▪ NHS Tayside does not hold the information requested.</td>
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</table>
|                | Section 38 (1) (a)      | ▪ Information relating to an individual is personal information.  
                          |                                           | ▪ Disclosure of information which would allow the identification of individuals would be in breach of confidentiality and Data Protection principles |
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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  
Kbinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Or via the online appeal service: www.itstpublicknowledge.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  
12February 2019
Dear [Name]

Ministerial Briefing re Forfar Practices, Angus HSCP

Current Status

Three general practices provide General Medical Services to the population of Forfar and surrounding areas with the North West locality of Angus:

Lour Road Surgery
- List size circa 6,300. Significant increase in list size over recent years. For example list size in January 2016 was circa 5,860.
- Full GP compliment, with services delivered from GP owned premises.
- Training practice.
- List closure was agreed for a period of six months with effect from 1st June 2018 up to and including Friday 30th November 2018, with agreement that the list would reopen in event of list size falling to 6,000 or below. Main reason for requesting closure was concerns about practice stability due to increasing list size largely due to patient movement between practices, exacerbated by gap in trainees within practice.

Ravenswood Surgery
- List size circa 3,550. Increase in list size over recent years. For example list size in January 2016 was circa 3,380.
- 1.5 of 2.5 wte GPs retiring in February 2019.
- Services delivered from GP owned premises with no capacity for development or expansion on current site, posing limitations on opportunities for expansion of practice based delivery of services and recruitment of replacement GPs.
- Training practice.
- Pilot site for new models of care supported by Primary Care Transformation Fund, based on the learning from Nuka.
- List closure was agreed for a period of three months with effect from 20th August 2018 up to and including Friday 16th November 2018, with agreement that the list would reopen in event of list falling to 3,475 or below. Main reason for requesting closure was concerns about practice stability due to significantly increasing list size largely due to patient movement between practices.
Academy Medical Centre

- List size circa 10,014. Significant reduction in list size over recent years. For example list size in January 2016 was circa 10,800.
- Significant challenges related to GP recruitment. Currently 3 GPs supported by enhanced MDT delivering services.
- Services delivered within leased premises. Current lease expiry 2029.
- Pilot site for new models of care supported by Primary Care Transformation Fund, based on the learning from Nuka. While the new care model, which has significantly increased rate of telephone consultation and MDT working, is a factor in patient movement from the practice it is recognised that the practice viability and sustainability currently is possible due to the model of services delivered.
- List closure was agreed for a period of six months with effect from Monday 22\(^{nd}\) October 2018 up to and including Friday 19\(^{th}\) April 2019, with agreement that the list would reopen in event of list falling to 9,000 or below. Main reason for requesting closure was concerns about practice stability due to impact of list closures in Ravenswood and Lour Road.

The factors contributing to challenges related to practice sustainability differ in each practice. Some challenges experienced to date in supporting adoption of a collaborative approach to the management of this issue across the Forfar practices, although this situation is improving. There are additional historical issues contributing to some of the inter practice differences of opinion. Recognising the impact of patient feedback from patients and staff who have chosen to leave Academy Medical Centre the practices have varying opinions on the models of care being delivered within Academy, which has a high reliance of telephone triage. Whilst this model of care is a significant change to the traditional models of general practice, it has enabled the practice to manage daily demand, which has posed challenges to the practice for many years even at its highest levels of medical staffing.

Current Arrangements for Patient Allocation to Practices

NHS Tayside Executive Directors agreed that with effect from 22\(^{nd}\) October 2018, patient seeking to register on entering the area would be assigned to each practice on a rotational basis, via Practitioner Services. Reassignment of patients currently registered with a Forfar GP Practice can only be actioned in exceptional circumstances. LMC/GP Sub Committee supportive of arrangements.

Short to Medium Term Measures Being Progressed

Meetings between NHST Primary Care Services and Angus HSCP have taken place with each practice, supported by a risk assessment completed by each practice, to discuss and agree measures required either collectively or at a practice specific level, summarised below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academy Medical Centre</th>
<th>Ravenswood</th>
<th>Lour Road</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GP Recruitment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physicians Associate appointed - starting November 2018</td>
<td>Potential candidates interested in GP posts but advised by practice appointments dependent on ‘receiving assurances on sustainable and future proof premises for the delivery of GMS services’. Failure to recruit would compromise sustainability of practice.</td>
<td>Potential to expand list size being explored to support future sustainable model of general practice in Forfar</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 session GP starting April 2019</td>
<td>Practice has indicated potential to expand list size if relocated to circa 5,000 patients to support future sustainable model of general practice in Forfar.</td>
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<td>Regular locum confirmed until April 2019</td>
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Consideration being given to salaried appointment to cluster to support all practices.

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<tr>
<th>Development of MDT Team/PCIP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Initial enhancement of MDT via the new models of care programme (social prescribing and health psychology).</td>
<td>Limited capacity for development of practice based enhanced MDT working in line with PCIP due to premises capacity.</td>
<td>Practice was not part of new models of care programme.</td>
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<td>Practice have funded and HSCP supported increased pharmacy support to practice and also a practice based first contact physiotherapy and mental health services.</td>
<td>Practice has support from peripatetic health psychology, social prescribing via new models of care programme.</td>
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<td>Significant expansion and training of practice nursing workforce, supported by NES, as part of the new models of care programme.</td>
<td>Moving forwards practice population will be disadvantaged in relation to other practices in the town with regards range of services than can be accommodated within the practice until such time as relocation of practice possible.</td>
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Cluster planning in current and future PCIP. Year one is intended to result in increased support in relation to pharmacotherapy, additional services, vaccine transformation. With regards Community Treatment & Care Services Angus wide ear care services will commence January 2019.

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<th>Premises</th>
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<td>The Paper below proposes early option appraisal re lease arrangements. The practice has approached the board to request that the Board consider being a party to</td>
<td>Scottish Govt premises lead, Philip McLean visited practice September 2018.</td>
<td>The practice has expressed interest in a GP sustainability loan and may consider an application.</td>
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<td>Practice application being considered for GP</td>
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<td>Planning for the future</td>
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<td>Discussions ongoing at cluster level about redesign of wider services, including GP delivery of medical provision within community hospitals including MIIU and also the introduction of Enhanced Community Support, the latter of which is now available in other Angus clusters.</td>
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<td>Cluster level meeting planned with LIST analysts and HSCP management on 27th November to support collective review of practice boundaries and consider impact of approved developments within Local Development Plan - aims to support a collaborative approach to longer term planning of services.</td>
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<td>Discussions are ongoing with the practices re proposed options for management of list closures. A proposal is being drafted to be shared with practices proposing extension of list closures up to 19th April 2019, with ongoing allocation of new patients via Practitioner Services until that time. This extension is conditional on all practices agreeing to work collaboratively with NHS Tayside and Angus Health &amp; Social Care Partnership to agree and implement a shared action plan, which will include all of the actions outlined above along with any additional measures agreed through ongoing dialogue.</td>
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Yours sincerely

Registered Nurse
Primary Care Manager/Long Term Conditions Lead
Angus Health & Social Care Partnership