NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 5th February 2019.

Extract from Request (NHS Tayside have added numbers for ease of reference)

1. “When was the last time the Health Board completed a major incident simulation exercise? Please list each hospital who would respond to a major incident.
2. How many hospitals within the Health Board have completed a full major incident exercise since 1999? Please state which hospitals, and what year.
3. How regularly must hospitals within the Health Board complete a major incident simulation exercise?
4. Is there a number of casualties indicative of a “major incident” within the Health Board? If so please provide the figure.
5. In a major incident simulation exercise, what is the expected increase in patient capacity across the Health Board.
6. When is the next major incident simulation exercise for the Health Board scheduled? Please list each hospital?
7. When was the major incident procedure for the Health Board at each hospital last updated?
8. Is there an overspill protocol prepared in case of patient capacity being exceeded?
9. Is there a policy in place within the Health Board with regards recruiting or calling in extra staff to cover any “major incident”?
10. Which departments would need extra staff to come in after a major incident? Please name each department, and the number of extra staff who would be contacted in the major incident simulation exercise.
11. Which hospitals are designated “treatment centres” to be used during “emergency simulations”? Please provide details of any areas set aside for simulated casualties during such an exercise.
12. How many simulated casualties are drafted in for such exercises?
13. What is the current patient capacity number for emergency departments, A&E, radiology, surgery theatres, trauma centre, and any other departments required for a major incident?”

Response

1. NHS Tayside run regular table tops and live casualty exercises. The last control room exercise was in conjunction with an airport exercise in November 2018. NHS Tayside has one receiving hospital, Ninewells Hospital. Perth Royal Infirmary would be used for capacity and some regular, non major incident work would be diverted to Perth.
2. Control room, call out, and tabletop exercises have tested the plan in Ninewells Hospital. We have had a major incident stand by at Ninewells Hospital in 2015.
3. Sites should have a yearly major incident simulation exercise, a live play exercise every three years and a communication test every six months.
4. There is no number of casualties indicative of a 'major incident'. The duty emergency department consultant along with the duty executive will decide on declaration depending on numbers, types of casualties and various other factors. Each site has identified the number of priority 1, 2 and 3 patients it can receive.

5. The expected increase in patient capacity across NHS Tayside would be dependent on the exercise scenario and type of patients.

6. NHS Tayside will be conducting a major incident simulation exercise in 2019 after the updated plan is complete.

7. The whole plan for NHS Tayside and both hospitals is currently being updated.

8. Each site has identified additional capacity. There is a national mass casualty plan.

9. There is a policy within each NHS Tayside hospital and individual department’s major incident response, regarding the need for extra staff when a major incident arises.

10. The departments which would need extra staff in relation to a major incident would be dependent on the scenario.

11. Ninewells Hospital would be used during an emergency simulation.

12. The amount of simulated casualties drafted in for a major incident simulation exercise would be dependent on the scenario written.

13. Each area has escalation plans in place to support an incident, absolute capacity cannot be stated, it depends on the scenario, numbers and types of casualty.


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<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA5936</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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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
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
25 February 2019