NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 25 February 2019.

Extract from Request

“I would like to submit the following Freedom of Information request. The Scottish Parliament is likely to have draft legislation presented to it next month calling for a change in the law to allow, assisted suicide and or euthanasia – sometimes referred to as “assisted dying”. In Oregon and Washington, two of the US states that have legalised assisted suicide, there have been documented cases of those with terminal illnesses being refused life-saving, or life-extending medication, while offered the drugs to kill themselves. In these cases, the high cost of treatment was given as a reason for the denial of medication.

Please can you provide me with a copy of, or details of the assessment that your organisation has carried out on the impact of changing the law to allow assisted suicide or euthanasia, in particular, I am keen to see how this will impact the following:

a) A possible reduction, or redeployment of clinical staff away from palliative care?
b) Any possible financial savings?
c) Figures on the numbers of people who might opt to end their lives this way?
d) Any assessment of how this will impact on your organisation’s suicide reduction plan?
e) Any assessment of how this will impact on the mental health of your staff?
f) Any assessment of additional costs associated with possible litigation against both medical staff and your organisation?”

Response

NHS Tayside has not carried out any impact assessments around assisted suicide and or euthanasia – sometimes referred to as “assisted dying”.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA6016</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Response to correspondence dated 25 February 2019
Request: Assisted Suicide and or Euthanasia
Applicant: Private
Reference: IGTFOISA6016

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
20 March 2019