NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 06 March 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**

“The information I request relates to the ability of your Board to deliver timely services in providing hearing tests and in the fitting of hearing aids. In particular, I ask that you provide me with:

- How many degree-qualified audiologists are employed by your Board, as at January 2019 and expressed in Full Time Equivalents
- How many vacant posts for degree-qualified audiologists are there in your Board as at January 2019, expressed in FTEs
- In the context of workforce planning, how many degree-qualified audiologists do you estimate will be required by your Board in 5 years' time and in 10 years' time
- In terms of hearing tests, what is your Board’s waiting time target for providing hearing tests from the point of referral being made for a hearing test as at January 2019
- In terms of the fitting of hearing aids, what is your Board’s waiting time target for the fitting of hearing aids from the point of referral being made for a hearing aid fitting as at January 2019
- In terms of hearing tests, what is your Board’s average actual waiting time performance in the provision of hearing tests from the point of referral being made for a hearing test as at January 2019
- In terms of the fitting of hearing aids, what is your Board’s average actual waiting time performance in the fitting of hearing aids from the point of referral being made for a hearing aid fitting as at January 2019”

**Response**

1. 21.9wte degree-qualified audiologists are employed by NHS Tayside, as at January 2019.

2. There are currently no vacant posts for degree-qualified audiologists in NHS Tayside.

3. Information not held. Unknown as service demand and provision may change.

4. This information is available as a matter of public record from National Services Division (NSD) and is reported on a month by month basis

    Please see the following link for further information: [https://www.isdscotland.org/](https://www.isdscotland.org/)

5. As above
6. As above
7. As above.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA6044</td>
<td>Section 17 - Information not held (Q3)</td>
<td>Information surrounding how many degree-qualified audiologists NHS Tayside estimate will be required by their Board in 5 years’ time and in 10 years’ time in not held.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section 25 - Information otherwise available (Qs 4,5,6&amp;7)</td>
<td>The information requested is published on the NSD website and the link has been 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.itstpublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://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
20 March 2019