NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 15 April 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

1. “How many women have asked NHS Tayside to have vaginal mesh implants inserted in the past five years? In each instance, please break down figures annually.

2. How many women have had vaginal mesh implants inserted by NHS Tayside in the past five years? In each instance, please break down figures annually.

3. How many women who have had vaginal mesh implants have complained about debilitating side effects in the past five years to NHS Tayside? In each instance, please break down figures annually.

4. How many women have had vaginal mesh implants removed in the past five years by NHS Tayside? In each instance, please break down figures annually.

5. How many women are waiting to have a vaginal mesh implant removed by NHS Tayside?”

Response

1. There have been ten cases of mesh implants for urinary incontinence placed on the waiting list for surgery between 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2014- 22nd of June 2014.

2. There have been ten cases of Tension-free Vaginal Tape (TVT)/Trans-Vaginal Obturator Tape (TVT-O) between 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2014- 22nd of June 2014.

3. In the past five years there have been <5 complaints regarding side effects from vaginal mesh implants. Please note this information is not robust. Please note that information relating to an individual's healthcare is considered personal information. Due to the small numbers involved, NHS Tayside will not provide any further breakdown of this information as this could lead to the identification of individuals and would contravene confidentiality and data protection principles.

4. NHS Tayside has not removed any vaginal mesh implants within the past five years.

5. There are no women waiting to have their vaginal mesh implant removed by NHS Tayside.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA6206</td>
<td>Section 38 (1)(a) – Personal information (Q3).</td>
<td>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.</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

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
01 May 2019