NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 09 May 2019.

**Extract from Request**

1. “What psychological support is provided by the NHS Board for service users with neurological conditions such as muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular conditions? Is this provided by trained psychologists, counsellors or trained GPs?
2. How many service users with neurological conditions are on the waiting list for a first appointment for psychological support in the NHS Board area?
3. What is the average waiting time for service users with neurological conditions to access psychological support provided by the NHS Board?
4. Does the NHS Board have a programme available from diagnosis and at significant physical and life milestones to provide support for family members of people with neurological conditions?
5. How many psychologists in the NHS Board have the required knowledge and training to provide support for people with neurological conditions?”

**Response**

1. The department of Clinical Neuropsychology provides a dedicated specialist service to patients living in Tayside who have been diagnosed with a neurological condition. This includes patients with muscular dystrophy, neuromuscular conditions as well as all other disorders of the brain and spinal cord (e.g. tumours, demyelinating disorders, movement disorders, cortical and sub-cortical dementias, toxic conditions, epilepsy, cerebrovascular disease, psychiatric disorders and traumatic brain injury, amongst others). The service is provided to adults over the age of 16. There is no upper age limit. This service is provided by Clinical Neuropsychologists and Clinical Psychologists.

2. As at 13/05/2019, there were 389 individuals on the NHS Tayside waiting list for a first appointment for psychological support.

3. Referrals are triaged on the basis of clinical priority. The department of Clinical Neuropsychology takes inpatient referrals from neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, stroke, forensic and general medical wards. These referrals are prioritised with patients aiming to be seen within 48 hours. Similarly outpatient referrals can be appointed as urgent, routine or added to the waiting list. It is therefore difficult to provide an average waiting time, as some patients will be seen on the day of referral while others will face a considerable wait, depending on clinical need.

4. There is a dedicated post diagnostic support service for patients with dementia and their families. This is accessed via Psychiatry of Old Age.
NHS Tayside however does not provide a dedicated psychology service to support family members of people living with neurological conditions. Family members may be offered limited psychological support with the Clinical Neuropsychology Service as part of the work being conducted with the patient with the neurological condition, if appropriate. Family members can also access general adult mental health services via their GP as appropriate (eg. Counselling, Beating the Blues, Tayside Adult Psychological Therapies Service). Children can access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services if additional support is required. The Older People’s Psychological Therapy Service provides support to Older Adults with Dementia/Stroke. Family can also access support from multiple third sector agencies e.g. Maggie’s Centre, Dundee Carers Centre, Headway etc.

5. The department of Clinical Neuropsychology has 7.8 WTE Clinical Psychologists working with patients with Neurological Conditions.


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<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA6283</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.itsofpk.com/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 May 2019