NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 09 May 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**

“I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

1. As per the 2014 guidance on health assessments for looked after children,
   a. What data does the health board capture on the mental health needs of looked after children following health assessment,
   b. What questions are asked, or methods used to identify information on the possible impact of trauma on a child or young person’s mental wellbeing.

2. What steps are taken by the health board through recruitment and training to ensure that staff carrying out mental health assessments for looked after children understand the possible impact of trauma on children and young people?

3. For each year since 2014, what percentage of health assessments for looked after children took place,
   a. face to face with the child/young person
   b. over the phone with the child/young person
   c. over the phone with a carer who knows the child/young person well
   d. some other means?

4. For each year since 2014, following a health assessment what percentage of looked after children and young people
   a. are referred to CAMHS
   b. have support for a diagnosable mental health problem as part of their child’s plan
   c. have support for their mental health and wellbeing as part of their child’s plan?

5. What steps have the health board taken since 2014 to take into account and responds to the mental health needs of looked after children, in its role as a corporate parent.”
Response

Question One

As per the 2014 guidance on health assessments for looked after children, NHS Tayside captures the following data on the mental health needs of looked after children following health assessment:

- Number of Looked after children aged 4 and over with a Mental Health Assessment completed.
- Number of Looked after children aged 4 and over with no Mental Health Assessment recorded
- % of Mental Health Assessments recorded within 12 weeks of the Notification date
- % of Mental Health Assessments completed and recorded on EMIS

The following questions are asked; or methods used, to identify information on the possible impact of trauma on a child or young person’s mental wellbeing.

- We ask ‘what’s happened to you?’ utilising the GIRFEC National Practice Model.
- Within clinics they and their carers will be asked about sleep patterns, eating patterns, behaviour, emotional responses, impact of and views about contact, social and academic functioning in school.
- Strength & Difficulties Questionnaire is offered to all newly looked after children, (aged 4 and over) /young people, parents, carers, teacher.
- Young Person Core Assessment offered when required.
- School Nursing collates numbers of children that fall within the Looked after Children and Mental Health & Wellbeing priority areas.
- The CR-C (information from carers on emotional wellbeing) is used for younger and school age children, if seen in social Paediatric clinic.
- Patterns of self-harm in any age of young person will be explored.
- Young people are offered opportunity to raise issue of concern, worries and who they have to talk to about concerns.
- Carers are encouraged to write down concerns or arrange separate conversations if considered to be unhelpful for the child/YP to hear discussion of their behaviour that is perceived as negative or concerning.
- Gathering of appropriate background information may help to formulate targeted questions about impact of trauma.
Question Two

The following steps are taken by NHS Tayside through recruitment and training to ensure that staff carrying out mental health assessments for looked after children understand the possible impact of trauma on children and young people:

- Training for nursing staff
- Medical staff attends regular training as part of the skill set required
- School Nursing and Looked after Children services are up skilling in evidence-based psychological interventions
- Implementation of School Nursing -Mental Health Priority area, as per transformation
- Recruitment and training for LAC Nurses is currently being refreshed and refocused

Question Three

NHS Tayside does not hold the following data:

For each year since 2014, what percentage of health assessments for looked after children took place,
   a. face to face with the child/young person
   b. over the phone with the child/young person
   c. over the phone with a carer who knows the child/young person well some other means?

Question Four

NHS Tayside does not hold the following data:

For each year since 2014, following a health assessment what percentage of looked after children and young people
   a. are referred to CAMHS
   b. have support for a diagnosable mental health problem as part of their child’s plan
   c. have support for their mental health and wellbeing as part of their child’s plan?
Question Five

NHS Tayside has taken the following steps since 2014 to take into account and respond to the mental health needs of looked after children, in its role as a corporate parent.

- An NHST Corporate Parenting plan is being developed.
- There is understanding and acknowledgement of the need for support to LAC and the people who care for them.
- Appointments offered through CAMHS to work with networks around looked after children to formulate an understanding of their mental health needs and support the ongoing provision of care that meets those needs.
- Consultation from CAMHS, available to health staff working with LAC in some areas.
- Renewed commitment to ensure there are nursing services dedicated to the most vulnerable looked after young people in residential, transition etc to ensure continuity of care and support.
- In recruitment of new nurses for looked after children, it is a particular focus to seek some mental health training in the background of applicants.
- Ongoing work done to prevent delay as a result of children moving across boundaries.
- Health staff meet with young people's group to hear their views and discuss mental health issues.
- Implementation of CEL 16, SDQ, Team Around The Child/Child Care Plan Meetings and Looked After Children meetings are convened to assist with addressing health needs.
- School Nursing and Looked after Children Nurse representatives engage with care experienced children and young people’s groups within the community.
- A new and refocused School Nursing and Looked After Children’s Nursing model will be implemented through 2019.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA6280</td>
<td>Section 17 – Information not held</td>
<td>Questions three and four. NHS Tayside does not hold the information.</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.itstopublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itstopublicknowledge.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
29 May 2019