

Date: 08 May 2025  
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2025-000119  
Email: [NSS.DevServicesFOI@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.DevServicesFOI@nhs.scot)

**Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2025-000119 – Vegan food options in NHS hospitals.**

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 17 April 2025.

**I am writing to ask for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 The information I request is below:**

- 1. Are nutritionally complete and appropriate vegan options available at all NHS hospitals?**
- 2. Are nutritionally appropriate vegan options guaranteed at all NHS hospitals at all times?**
- 3. Have you undertaken an equality impact assessment for vegans in hospital? If yes, can you provide a copy of the assessment?**
- 4. As you know, vegans in hospital can suffer if they don't have access to healthy nutritionally appropriate food. Is the NHS following it's public sector equality duty toward vegans? Please provide any documents or information to explain whether and how the PSED is being followed towards vegans.**
- 5. For vegans who arrive in hospital because an unforeseen emergency, are they guaranteed access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food?**
- 6. For vegan pregnant women, what steps are in place to ensure that they will have access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food if they have an extended stay in hospital, or during/after/or before giving birth?**
- 7. For elderly vegans who may have an extended stay in hospital, what steps are in place to ensure that they will have access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food at NHS hospitals?**

We have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

- 1. Are nutritionally complete and appropriate vegan options available at all NHS hospitals?**

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), an organisation is not required to provide information it does not hold. NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) does not hold information regarding the nutritional content or availability of vegan food options in NHS Scotland hospitals, as this information is determined and maintained at local health board (HB) level. Further inquiries can be made to the FOI teams of the respective local HBs using the email addresses provided below.



Chair Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service*

**2. Are nutritionally appropriate vegan options guaranteed at all NHS hospitals at all times?**

Under Section 17 of the FOISA, an organisation is not required to provide information it does not hold. NSS does not hold information regarding the nutritional content or availability of vegan food options in NHS Scotland hospitals, as this information is determined and maintained at local HB level. Further inquiries can be made to the FOI teams of the respective local HBs using the email addresses provided below.

**3. Have you undertaken an equality impact assessment for vegans in hospital? If yes, can you provide a copy of the assessment?**

Under Section 17 of the FOISA, an organisation is not required to provide information it does not hold. NSS has not undertaken an equality impact assessment for vegan patients in hospitals. This information is determined and maintained at local HB level. Further inquiries can be made to the FOI teams of the respective local HBs using the email addresses provided below.

**4. As you know, vegans in hospital can suffer if they don't have access to healthy nutritionally appropriate food. Is the NHS following its public sector equality duty toward vegans? Please provide any documents or information to explain whether and how the PSED is being followed towards vegans.**

Under Section 17 of the FOISA, an organisation is not required to provide information it does not possess. NSS does not follow a specific public sector equality duty toward vegan patients in hospitals as this is not under the remit of NSS. All HBs are required to comply with the Food in Hospitals National Catering and Nutrition Specification for Food and Fluid Provision in Hospitals (2016). This Specification was initially launched in 2006 and refreshed in 2016 and provides information on standards for nutritional care, nutrient and food provision for patients within hospitals in Scotland. The link to this specification is below.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-consultation-proposed-options-improve-assure-nutritional-standard-food-nhsscotland-hospitals>

**5. For vegans who arrive in hospital because an unforeseen emergency, are they guaranteed access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food?**

Under Section 17 of the FOISA, an organisation is not required to provide information it does not hold. NSS does not hold information regarding the nutritional content or availability of vegan food options in NHS Scotland hospitals, as this information is determined and maintained at local HB level. Further inquiries can be made to the FOI teams of the respective local HBs using the email addresses provided below.

**6. For vegan pregnant women, what steps are in place to ensure that they will have access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food if they have an extended stay in hospital, or during/after/or before giving birth?**

Under Section 17 of the FOISA, an organisation is not required to provide information it does not hold. NSS does not hold information regarding the nutritional content or availability of vegan food options in NHS Scotland hospitals, as this information is determined and maintained at local HB level. Further inquiries can be made to the FOI teams of the respective local HBs using the email addresses provided below.



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**7. For elderly vegans who may have an extended stay in hospital, what steps are in place to ensure that they will have access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food at NHS hospitals?**

Under Section 17 of the FOISA, an organisation is not required to provide information it does not hold. NSS does not hold information regarding the nutritional content or availability of vegan food options in NHS Scotland hospitals, as this information is determined and maintained at local HB level. Further inquiries can be made to the FOI teams of the respective local HBs using the email addresses provided below.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran	foi@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Borders	foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	dg.feedback2@nhs.scot
NHS Fife	fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot
NHS Forth Valley	fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
NHS Grampian	gram.foi@nhs.scot
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Highland	nhsh.foirequestshighland@nhs.scot
NHS Lanarkshire	foi@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Lothian	loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
NHS Orkney	ORK.FOIrequests@nhs.scot
NHS Shetland	shet.foi@nhs.scot
NHS Tayside	tay.foisa@nhs.scot
NHS Western Isles	wi.foi-requests@nhs.scot
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	His.foi@nhs.scot
NHS 24	FOI@nhs24.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Education for Scotland	nes.foi@nhs.scot
NHS Golden Jubilee	FOI@nwtc.scot.nhs.uk
Public Health Scotland	Phs.foi@phs.scot
Scottish Ambulance Service	sas.foi@nhs.scot
The State Hospital	TSH.FOI-Mailbox@nhs.scot

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Governance and Board Services (Board Secretary) at the email address [nss.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.foi@nhs.scot) within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online application form](#).

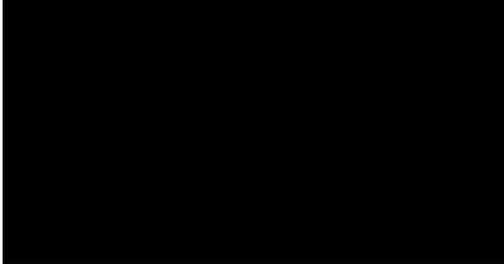
If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.



Chair                      Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive        Mary Morgan

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Yours sincerely,



Chair                      Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive        Mary Morgan

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