

Date 6 July 2026  
Your Ref FOI-2026-3382  
Our Ref FOI-2026-3382

Enquiries to [REDACTED]  
Email [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Dear Paul,

**Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2026-3382**

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 26 May 2026, which was subsequently clarified on 16 June 2026 requesting the following information:

I request copies of any correspondence, meeting notes, presentations, contracts, proposals, or other recorded communications held by your organisation from 1 January 2020 to the present concerning discussions with technology companies about access to, hosting of, analysis of, or use of NHS Scotland patient data or related health datasets.

This should include discussions involving companies such as:

- Palantir Technologies
- Google / DeepMind
- Microsoft
- Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Oracle / Cerner
- IBM
- OpenAI
- Accenture
- Deloitte
- McKinsey
- Optum / UnitedHealth

Please also provide any internal briefing papers, governance assessments, or strategic documents relating to such discussions.

**Clarification of 16 June 2026:**

Please can you just narrow it to the companies I have mentioned in my request. I am interested in companies that have access to patient data or relevant patient datasets.

Chair Mr Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

It is important to note that from 1 April 2026, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) joined to form PSD Scotland, enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. More information regarding PSD Scotland can be found at the following URL:

[Public Services Delivery Scotland \(PSD Scotland\)](#)

I can confirm that PSD Scotland does hold correspondence, meeting notes, presentations, contracts, proposals from 1 January 2020 to the present concerning discussions with technology companies about access to, hosting of, analysis of, or use of NHS Scotland patient data or related health datasets.

However, PSD Scotland has estimated that the cost of undertaking the necessary work that will enable us to respond to your request will exceed the £600 fee limit as set out in the [Freedom of Information \(Fees for Required Disclosure\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2004](#).

Therefore, under [Section 12\(1\) of FOISA](#) PSD Scotland is not obliged to provide a response. For information purposes, the fee limit is set down by the Scottish Ministers. PSD Scotland estimates the cost involved in this case to be >£6,600.

Using your search criteria, it is estimated to take an average member of staff 40 hours to search for, process and redact information from each vendor.

This can be calculated as the following:

- Time taken to retrieve and prepare relevant information = >40 hours
- The chargeable cost per hour = £15.00
- Estimated cost per vendor (>40 hours x £15.00) = >£600.00

As there is 11 vendors listed within your request PSD Scotland has estimated that complying with your entire request the final total would be an estimated £6,600, i.e.

- 11 vendors at 40 hours processing time x >£600.00 per vendor = >£6,600.00

Included in these calculations, for a thorough search of our systems for correspondence, meeting notes, presentations, contracts, proposals, and other recorded communications, it would be necessary for all relevant employees to search their own emails, devices, OneDrive etc.

As an organisation PSD Scotland has over 4000 employees and it would therefore be a large scale task requiring substantial time resource, which would result in a cost that would significantly contribute to estimated £6,600 fee.

However, I can advise that details of NHS contracts in Scotland can be found at [Public Contracts Scotland](#), where you can search for specific suppliers and contracts in place with PSD Scotland, and its two constituent legacy organisations, NSS and NES.

I would also like to further advise that any contracts that we may have with the specified technology companies, do not include provisions for the vendors to have regular and independent access to, use of, or analysis of NHSScotland patient data or related health datasets.

As an organisation we are obligated to comply with Data Protection laws, and we take the safeguarding of data very seriously. As such, all of our contracts with vendors include provisions around Data Protection and Information Security. Vendors are legally required to only process our data in accordance with the purpose set out in the contract. There may be an occasional requirement for a vendor to access our data for support or for purposes such as providing digital consultancy expertise, however these occasions are minimal and strictly supervised.

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot)

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 Corporate Governance using the email address [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.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 Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

