

Date 14 July 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3411
Our Ref FOI-2026-3411

Enquiries to [REDACTED]
Email psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2026-3411

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 26 May 2026 requesting the following information:

I understand you hold information in relation to NHS Scotland Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care (HSC-PBPP).

I would be grateful if you would provide me with information in relation to: HSC-PBPP application 2021-0313 made by Professor Susan McVie University of Edinburgh Title of Study Understanding the relationship between health-related and other vulnerability and compliance with the Coronavirus Regulations.

Please provide me with

- 1) a copy of application 2021-0313 received by HSC-PBPP in August 2021?
- 2) a copy of the full approval decision in relation to application 2021-0313?
- 3) a copy of data sharing agreements in place in relation to application 2021-0313 provided by the applicant in order to gain full approval?

I can confirm that under the [FOISA Section 17 exemption for "Information not held"](#) Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland) does not hold the information that you have requested.

PSD Scotland have had no direct involvement in this project or the review of the application other than the fact that they are represented on the NHSScotland Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care (HSC-PBPP).

From 1 April 2026, NHS National Services Scotland 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 also confirm that Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides the secretariat for the HSC-PBPP and information on their review process, review criteria and approved projects can be located at [Public](#)

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

[Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care](#), however I note that 2021-0313 is not included in the publications on the HSC-PBPP website.

In order to obtain the information that you have requested we suggest that you contact the PHS FOI Team using the email address phs.foi@nhs.scot, as under the terms of FOISA we are unable to transfer this request on your behalf.

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

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 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,

