

Date: 5 August 2026
Our Ref: FOI2026-3402
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information
Email: psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2026-3402

Thank you for your information request received on 24 July 2026 and further email of July 2026, by Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland).

From 1 April 2026, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) joined to form Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland), enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. This means your Freedom of Information request is now being responded to by PSD Scotland.

I wish to advise under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), that PSD Scotland can provide a partial response to your request, as detailed below.

Your Request (24 July 2026)

I am requesting the following anonymised information regarding the 2026 Foundation Programme (FY1 posts commencing 2026) in Scotland. For the purpose of this request feel free to exclude the data regarding Specialised Foundation Programs (Groups S12, S19, S20, W32 and W39), or to include it if it is easier.

Please could you provide the following information:

1. For each foundation group within the South East Region of the Scottish Foundation School:

- a. The number of applicants who ranked that group as their first preference.*
- b. The number of applicants allocated to each group.*
- c. Of those, the number whose first-ranked group was the same as their allocation.*
- d. The competition ratio of each group*

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

2. For each foundation group within the West Region of the Scottish Foundation School:

- a. The number of applicants who ranked that group as their first preference.*
- b. The number of applicants allocated to each group.*
- c. Of those, the number whose first-ranked group was the same as their allocation.*
- d. The competition ratio of each group*

3. For each foundation group within the North Region of the Scottish Foundation School:

- a. The number of applicants who ranked that group as their first preference.*
- b. The number of applicants allocated to each group.*
- c. Of those, the number whose first-ranked group was the same as their allocation.*
- d. The competition ratio of each group*

Your Clarification Request (8 July 2026)

I would like to know the number of applicants that were successful in gaining their first preference please, however particularly what I would like to know is the percentage of applicants that were successful in gaining their first preference - to help me qualify this number.

Or the number of jobs in each region and then the number of applicants that gained their first group preference, so that I can work out the competition ratios myself.

Our Response

As explained in our communication of 8 July 2026 we confirmed that some of the information you have requested is not readily available for the following questions:

- a. The number of applicants who ranked that group as their first preference.*
- d. The competition ratio of each group*

To establish how many applicants ranked the groups named within your request as first choice and to calculate the competition ratio of each group, it would require the individual review of over 1000 applicant records. Whilst our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving and providing the information requested within these questions would exceed the upper cost limit of £600. This would take in excess of 40 hours; therefore this information is exempt under Section 12 of the FOISA - Excessive Cost.

Full information is held for the following questions:

b. The number of applicants allocated to each group.

c. Of those, the number whose first-ranked group was the same as their allocation.

Information has also been provided for the number of posts for each group and region as a total. This information is attached within: **FOI2026-3402-Annex A**.

Further information about the Scottish Foundation School is available via: [Welcome to the Scottish Foundation School | Scotland Deanery](#) .

More detailed information about the groups and programmes is available via: [Explore Regions, Groups and Programmes | Scottish Medical](#)

If you are dissatisfied with this reply under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you should contact us again in writing or by email within 40 days of receipt of this response to request an internal review.

If you remain unhappy with the outcome of that internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision within six months of receiving our response. For further information, please visit the Scottish Information Commissioner's [website](#).

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.