

[REDACTED]

Letter issued by email

Date: 05 October 2026
Our Ref: FOI2026-3479
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information
Email: psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2026-3479

Thank you for your information request received on 8 September 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.

Your Request

Please would you provide for 2026:

- 1. The number of Scottish Medical School Graduates who applied for F1 placements as their first preference via UKFPO.*
- 2. The number of Scottish Medical School Graduates who were given a F1 training place in Scotland.*
- 3. The outcome of your modelling for 2027 of the likely outcomes achieved through implementation of your Scotland First prioritisation policy for F1 placements for graduates of Scottish Medical Schools.*
- 4. The date on which you notified the UKFPO and other UK nations of your intention to use this policy and their respective responses.*
- 5. Your understanding of how your policy will be implemented by UKFPO for 2027 and its impact on the overall application of the algorithm.*
- 6. Your intentions regarding the guarantee set out in your policy for 2027 should you receive more first preference applications from Scottish Medical School graduates than places available.*

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

7. Your intentions regarding Scotland resident students who are currently at a medical school in one of the UK's other nations but would like to return home for their Foundation years.

8. The outcome of any advice you took on the legality of implementing this policy.

9. Your intentions regarding this policy should Scotland become again an undersubscribed deanery.

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.

As confirmed to you in our communication to you of 9 September 2026 a Scottish Medical School graduate is defined as an individual who obtained their Primary Medical Qualification (PMQ) from a Scottish Medical School, regardless of their nationality.

1. The number of Scottish Medical School Graduates who applied for F1 placements as their first preference via UKFPO.

This information is not readily available. To establish the number of Scottish Medical School Graduates who applied for Foundation Year 1 (F1) placements as their first preference 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.

2. The number of Scottish Medical School Graduates who were given a F1 training place in Scotland.

The number of Scottish Medical School Graduates who were given a F1 training place in Scotland was 895.

3. The outcome of your modelling for 2027 of the likely outcomes achieved through implementation of your Scotland First prioritisation policy for F1 placements for graduates of Scottish Medical Schools.

PSD Scotland has not undertaken formal modelling of the likely outcomes of the Scotland First policy. As the application process remains open and participants will subsequently have the opportunity to opt into, or withdraw from, the Scotland First process, final numbers are not yet known. However, PSD Scotland currently expects to have sufficient Foundation Programme capacity, including expansion posts, to offer a place in Scotland to all eligible Scottish medical school graduates who choose to participate in the Scotland First process, while continuing to offer places to applicants through the wider UK allocation process. PSD Scotland has engaged with the BMA and Scottish medical undergraduates who have voiced that the Scotland First policy is supported.

4. The date on which you notified the UKFPO and other UK nations of your intention to use this policy and their respective responses.

This was agreed by the UK Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) Executive Group on 7 August 2026. The group has four nations representation, and all parties were supportive of decision.

5. Your understanding of how your policy will be implemented by UKFPO for 2027 and its impact on the overall application of the algorithm.

All Scottish PMQ students will register to Foundation application through Oriel. All Scottish Medical Schools will then provide a list of graduates who wish to be prioritised to Scottish Foundation School. These candidates will be allocated to the Scottish Foundation School. The Oriel system will fill any remaining places through Oriel as usual from rest of UK applicants and abroad using PIA (Preference Informed Allocation). The algorithm will then use PIA for allocation of posts ranked within Scottish Foundation School.

6. Your intentions regarding the guarantee set out in your policy for 2027 should you receive more first preference applications from Scottish Medical School graduates than places available.

Scottish domiciled graduates who do not have Scottish PMQ are not eligible for priority application. They can still rank Scotland first on Oriel and will be eligible for posts unfilled by Scottish PMQ candidates.

7. Your intentions regarding Scotland resident students who are currently at a medical school in one of the UK's other nations but would like to return home for their Foundation years.

Scottish domiciled graduates who do not have Scottish PMQ are not eligible for priority application. They can still rank Scotland first on Oriel and will be eligible for posts unfilled by Scottish PMQ candidates.

8. The outcome of any advice you took on the legality of implementing this policy.

PSD Scotland can only act within its legal powers.

9. Your intentions regarding this policy should Scotland become again an undersubscribed deanery.

As the position on over- or under-subscription will only be confirmed after the allocation process, the current intention would be to keep the system in place to ensure Scottish PMQ graduates wishing to remain in Scotland are not displaced.

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

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