MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE
MHSCD : IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[redacted]
hello@adhdscot.co.uk

Our Reference: 202600539255

15 October 2026

Dear [redacted]

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 27 September 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for:

The following recorded information concerning work on potential standards or a specification for neurodevelopmental (ADHD and autism) assessments carried out in the private sector, however the workstream is titled:
1. Any minutes, notes, or correspondence of meetings held since 1 December 2025 between the Scottish Government and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, or other bodies, concerning standards or a specification for private-sector neurodevelopmental assessments;2. Any draft standards, specification, options paper, or scoping document produced for that work;3. Any documents setting out a timetable or planned milestones for that work.
Response to your request

In response to question 1 of your request, I enclose a copy of the information you have requested as follows:

1.A.	Emails between Scottish Government officials and Healthcare Improvement Scotland.
1.B.	Note of the meeting between Scottish Government officials and Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

However, an exemption under section section 38(1)(b) of FOISA applies to some of the information requested. This is because it is personal data of a third party, i.e. names and contact details of individuals, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.

In response to questions 2 and 3 of your request, the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. This is because no draft standards, specifications, options papers, scoping documents, timetables or planned milestones have been produced.

This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not hold the information you have requested.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Donna Bell, Director for Mental Health, Social Care and National Care Service, c/o FOI@gov.scot and c/o this postal address: FOI Unit , 2N.08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:
Appeal to the Commissioner | Scottish Information Commissioner

Yours sincerely

Leeanne McSharry
IMHS : CARE, SUPPORT AND ACCESS

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