MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE
MHSCD : COMPLEX CARE AND RIGHTS

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[redacted]
hello@adhdscot.co.uk

Our Reference: 202600539230

19 October 2026

Dear [redacted]

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

Thank you for your request dated 20 September 2026 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You have asked for the following information:

1. Any agendas, minutes, or attendee lists of stakeholder meetings held since 1 June 2026 concerning a route map or implementation plan for an adult neurodevelopmental pathway, or the implementation of the 4-tiered adult pathway model;
2. Any documents setting out a timetable, milestones, or planned publication date for that route map or implementation plan;
3. Any minutes, briefings, or submissions to Ministers, created since 1 June 2026, concerning the decision to adopt the Royal College of Psychiatrists' 4-tiered pathway for neurodevelopmental conditions in adults, as referenced in the Programme for Government 2026-2031.

Response to your request

I enclose a copy of most of the information you requested in the attached documents as follows:

Document Number	Document Name
A1.A	Adult ND Pathways - Workshop 1 - 1 July 2026 -Agenda
A1.B -	Adult ND Workshop 2 – 15 July 2026 - Agenda
A1.C	Ministerial Roundtable on Adult ND Pathways - Note - 25-08-26
A1. D	Adult ND Workshop and Roundtable attendees

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A1.E	Adult ND Pathways - Workshop 1 - 1 July 2026 -Note
A1. F	Adult ND Workshop 2 – 25 August - Agenda
A2. A	Adult ND Pathways Routemap - Timeline - 24062026 R' -
A3 A	Note - Meeting with Minister for MWPHSAD - RCPsychiS - 28-07-26
A3.B	Briefing - RCPsych - Minister for MWPHSAD - 28 July 2026
A3. C	Briefing - Roundtable - Adult ND Pathways - Minister MWPHSAD - 250826
A3. D	Submission to Minister MWPHSAD - Update on adult ND route-map - 11082026
A3 E	Submission to Minister - 100 days commitment on ASN and Adult ND - 17 June 2026

An exemption under section 38(1)(b)of FOISA applies to some the information you have requested as the documents that have been provided contain personal information. Section 38 of FOISA sets out when personal information is exempt from disclosure under FOISA. As such, the Scottish Government withholds names (and other personal information) from documents released in response to an FOI request if those names are exempt from disclosure under the provisions set out in FOISA.

We are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because an exemption under section 30(b)(i) of FOISA (free and frank exchange of advice) applies to some of the information requested. This exemption applies because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. This exemption recognises the need for Ministers and officials to have a private space within which to discuss and explore options before the Scottish Government reaches a settled public view. Disclosing the content of free and frank discussions on how will substantially inhibit such discussions in the future, particularly because these discussions are still ongoing and decisions have not been taken. Some information in this response is also exempt as 29 (1) (a) (formulation of Scottish Government policy) applies.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing Ministers and officials a private space within which to explore and refine the Government’s position on the matters related to the meeting in question, until the Government as a whole can adopt a policy that is sound and likely to be effective. This private thinking space is essential to enable all options to be properly considered, so that good policy decisions can be taken. Premature disclosure is likely to undermine the full and frank discussion of issues between Ministers and officials, which in turn will undermine the quality of the policy making process, which would not be in the public interest.
We are also unable to provide some of the information you have requested because an exemption under section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (formulation or development of Government policy) applies to some of the information requested as it relates to the development of the Scottish Government’s policy for Adult Neurodevelopment policy.

This exemption is subject to the ‘public interest test’. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption.
We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and

accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications, before taking a public position. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether discussions on further Adult Neurodevelopmental Policy developments will be disclosed in the near future, which may undermine or constrain the Government's view on the policy while it is still under discussion and development.

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 NCS Development, 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

David Berry
CCR : LDAN BILL

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