

Email address:
gillian.mathewson@panspandas.scot

Date 3 December 2025
Reference FOI/0006038/AM
Enquiries to Linda Brownlie
Telephone 01698 752634

Dear Ms Mathewson,

Further to your enquiry of 4 November under the Freedom of Information Act, please find our response below. In your request, you asked for the following information in relation to NHS Lanarkshire's response to recent communications about Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections (PANDAS):

1. *Actions Taken in Response to the PPSG Letter*

What steps has NHS Lanarkshire taken in response to the requests outlined in the PPSG letter, specifically:

- ***Distribution of information about PANS and PANDAS to GP practices;***
- ***Circulation of this information to paediatric units.***

I can advise that, after an extensive search, NHS Lanarkshire has no record of the PPSG letter you have referenced. Accordingly, I must advise that in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 the information sought in this regard is not held.

2. *Recognition of Updated Guidance*

Does NHS Lanarkshire recognise that the 2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA consensus statement.

NHS Lanarkshire has had sight of the above statements and can advise that the validity and merits of both documents have been recognised. The documents are materially different in their nature and content - the 2021 BPNA Consensus document being a 16-page, fully referenced article designed to support BPNA members practice and the 2023 PANS PANDAS Working Group Statement being an unreferenced, multi-agency working group single page update on approaches to the management of these cases. NHS Lanarkshire would advise that the 2023 PPWGS follows on from updates and adds to the 2021 BPNACS, however, given their differing form and nature they should be seen as complimentary publications.

3. *Clinical Pathways and Referral Options*

The Cabinet Secretary stated that there are multidisciplinary services for PANS and PANDAS currently available in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In the absence of such teams in NHS Lanarkshire, what steps are taken when a patient presents with symptoms which may be indicative of PANS or PANDAS.

NHS Lanarkshire has paediatricians with an interest in neurology, paediatric psychiatrists and paediatric psychologists working within the organisation.

It would be expected that, when children present with neuropsychiatric presentations, healthcare professionals would work together as an informal multi-disciplinary team, communicating and/or meeting as required by the clinical situation and involving other necessary professionals. From a paediatrician with an interest in neurology perspective, it would be expected that this involves out-patient clinic appointments and investigation, requesting input as appropriate to the presentation as well as communication with and support for involved colleagues from other services as above.

If patients present acutely and require in-patient paediatric management, this would be provided by the on-call consultant paediatrician with appropriate communication as above. If necessary from a paediatric perspective, a tertiary opinion may be sought for an individual patient, as would be the case with any other complex neurological presentation, from the local tertiary centre under the service level agreement, either in the form of informal clinical advice, a formal out-patient review or (if appropriate and necessary) in-patient admission.

I hope this is to your satisfaction. If you have any further queries on this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your original request, we can advise you that you do have a right to a review under section 20 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. For this review you should write to Donald Wilson, Director of Digital Services, NHS Lanarkshire, Kirklands Headquarters, Fallside Road, Bothwell G71 8BB or by email to Donald.Wilson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk within 40 working days of 3 December 2025.

If, following the outcome of a request for review, you are still dissatisfied I can advise you that you have the right to make application for a decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner under Section 47(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. An appeal can be made to the Commissioner online at www.foi.scot/appeal by post to Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS, by telephone on 01334 464610, by fax on 01334 464611 and by email at enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely

Linda Brownlie

Linda Brownlie
Freedom of Information Officer
NHS Lanarkshire