

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Balfour
Foreland Road
Kirkwall
Orkney
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Gillian Mathewson

Date: 02/12/2025

Via email: gillian.mathewson@panspandas.scot

Tel: 01856 888 220
Enquiries to: FOI Officer
Email: ork.foirequests@nhs.scot

Dear Gillian Mathewson,

RE: Freedom of Information Request 202526/536 – PANS and PANDAS Guidance and Services

Your Query and NHSO Response	Date of Request	November 2025
I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding NHS Orkney's response to recent communications about Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections (PANDAS). In May 2025, the PANS PANDAS Steering Group (PPSG) wrote to the chief executive of all NHS boards in Scotland to inform them of the ongoing work in the development of clinical guidelines for PANS and PANDAS. A link to this, and other referenced communication and statements can be found at the bottom of this email Referenced in that letter, is a letter written by Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to Wendy Chamberlain MP, outlining the support available in Scotland for those affected, as well as confirmation that the Department for Health and Social Care in England officially recognises that the PPSG 2023 statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA Consensus Statement. A request was made to the Cabinet Secretary to confirm if this was also the status in Scotland, but we were informed that we would need to make that request to each individual NHS board in Scotland. With that in mind, could you please provide responses to the following: 1. Actions Taken in Response to the PPSG Letter What steps has NHS Orkney taken in response to the requests outlined in the PPSG letter, specifically: • Distribution of information about PANS and PANDAS to GP practices. NHS Orkney has found no written evidence of this letter being received by the Chief Executive or being distributed to our GP Practices. • Circulation of this information to paediatric units. – Not applicable. NHS Orkney is a small remote and rural health board which operates one hospital. The Balfour hospital does not operate any paediatric units. 2. Recognition of Updated Guidance Does NHS Orkney recognise that the 2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA Consensus Statement? NHS Orkney holds no recorded evidence to confirm that it recognises the 2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Statement. 3. Clinical pathways and referral options. The Cabinet Secretary stated that there are multidisciplinary services for PANS and PANDAS currently		

Orkney NHS Board Headquarters: The Balfour, Foreland Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1NZ

Interim Board Chair: David Campbell

Interim Chief Executive: James Goodyear

available in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In the absence of such teams in NHS Orkney, what steps are taken when a patient presents with symptoms which may be indicative of PANS or PANDAS? [Patients from NHS Orkney are referred to specialist services in NHS Grampian for diagnosis and treatment. The requested information is not collated by NHS Orkney, therefore I must advise that in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002 the information sought is not held.](#)

I hope this helps with your request.

NHS Orkney is a small remote and rural health board within Scotland. All responses to Freedom of Information requests are collated in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under section 20(1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Orkney has dealt with your request, you have a right to ask for a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request.

A request for review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and NHS Orkney will reply within 20 working days of receipt. Review requests should be sent in writing to FOI officer, NHS Orkney, The Balfour, Foreland Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NZ or by e-mail via ork.foirequests@nhs.scot.

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS. Telephone: 01334 464610, Email: enquiries@foi.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer
NHS Orkney