

NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 4 November 2025.

Extract from Request

“I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding NHS Tayside’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 Tayside 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.

2. Recognition of Updated Guidance

Does NHS Tayside recognise that the 2023 PANS PANDAS Steering Group Statement supersedes the 2021 BPNA Consensus Statement?

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 Tayside, what steps are taken when a patient presents with symptoms which may be indicative of PANS or PANDAS?”



Response

1. A search of the Chief Executive's Office's was undertaken and the letter referenced is not recorded as being received.
2. The 2021 British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA) statement was reviewed again in April 2023. The NHS Tayside paediatric neurology team are all active members of the BPNA and continue to engage with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) and associated professional bodies around research collaboration and development of robust evidence-based guidelines.

The BPNA revised consensus statement remains valid in relation to the use of immune/ aggressive medical therapies until such time as there is a robust, safe and effective evidence base to support this or other treatments (immunoglobulins, steroids, antibiotics and other immunosuppressant therapies).

3. The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is reflective of generic teams used for children with a range of neuropsychiatric and neuroinflammatory disorders. There is no highly specialised service dedicated solely to PANS PANDAS patients in Scotland.

All children referred to the NHS Tayside paediatric neurology team with possible PANS PANDAS are investigated appropriately including a full medical evaluation and exclusion of other known medical conditions (neuroinflammatory, autoimmune, and metabolic disorders) which may present in a similar manner but require a different treatment approach.

Referrals are accepted from GPs, general paediatricians' and CAMHS. Children are offered appropriate MDT interventions including AHP and CAMHs referrals and support as clinically indicated.

Exemptions Section – Application of Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 exemptions and Data Protection Act 2018 Principles.

Document Ref.	FOISA Exemption Applied	Justification
IGTFOISA251023	None	None

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



A request for an internal review must be made in writing no later than forty working days from receipt of this response and sent to:

Head of Information Governance and Cyber Assurance
MacKenzie Building (Ninewells Campus)
Ninewells Hospital and Medical School
Kirsty Semple Way
Dundee
DD2 4BF

Or by email to tay.foisa@nhs.scot

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Scottish Information Commissioner, within 6 months of the date of any review, for a decision. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
KY16 9DS

Or via the online appeal service: <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>

If you have any queries about this correspondence, please contact:

Information Governance and Cyber Assurance Team
MacKenzie Building (Ninewells Campus)
Ninewells Hospital and Medical School
Kirsty Semple Way
Dundee
DD2 4BF

Telephone - 01382 740074

E-mail: tay.foisa@nhs.scot

Information Governance and Cyber Assurance
NHS Tayside
26 November 2025

