

Reference Number: FOI/033/25

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Information requested:

1. I wish to request all information and documentation relating to the rationale/ reasoning / understanding behind NHS Scotland recruitment of psychologists and associated person specification.
2. Specifically, why does a consultant psychologist post within the national secure service (Carstairs) specify the need for the individual to have a DClinPsy qualification?
3. Why are no other disciplines within psychology including forensic or counselling psychology considered? Especially given that the hospital is a forensic secure environment?

Response:

The State Hospital's recruitment of Consultant psychologists, in common with all NHS Scotland Boards, is informed by The British Psychological Society's (BPS) guidance which is available from their website ([Homepage | BPS](#)). As this information is available without making a FOI request it is exempt from disclosure. (FOISA section 25(1))

2. The requirement for a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) is based on the specific role requirements; the competencies and training associated with this qualification are considered to best meet the role requirements. The most recent job description for the consultant psychologist post at the State Hospital explicitly states that "Postgraduate Doctoral training in Clinical Psychology or equivalent" is essential, along with HCPC registration as a clinical psychologist .

This decision reflects the clinical demands of the role and the training provided through DClinPsy programmes, which are considered necessary for the responsibilities of the consultant post. The job pack associated with the role is publicly available from [NHS Scotland | Jobs | Apply for Lead Consultant Clinical Psychologist](#) and as such is exempt from disclosure as it can be obtained without making a FOI request (FOISA section 25(1)).

These and the BPS guidance are the only documents we hold in relation to the requirements for a consultant psychologist post.

3. Staff with other training and skill sets are employed within the Psychological Therapies Service (PTS) at the State Hospital, for example, a health psychologist and nurse therapists. Posts are appointed to based on the knowledge, skills and competencies required for the specific post. At present, the consultant roles available in the State Hospital are considered to require knowledge and training provided by a DClinPsy training course.

However, we do not hold this information in a recorded format and therefore give notice that we do not hold the information requested. (FOISA section 17).

Advice and Guidance:

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, only recorded information is in scope of a requests such as emails, documents, databases, audio recordings, etc.. The legislation does not cover information known to staff, but not recorded.