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Dr R MacDonald  
Letter issued by email

Date: 16 July 2025  
Our Ref: FOI2025-072  
Enquiries to: Freedom of Information  
Email: [nes.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nes.foi@nhs.scot)

Dear Dr MacDonald

**Freedom of Information Reference: FOI2025-072**

Thank you for your email received by NHS Education for Scotland on 18 June 2025 requesting the following information;

*I make reference to the email below \* and the attached response to a related FOI which was made to the University of St Andrews relating to the use of honorary titles.*

*The University of St Andrews makes quite clear their policy as to the use of honorary titles outside of official university business as follows:*

*"Convention dictates that Honorary titles are used only in the context of the awarding institutions, and if used elsewhere should be clearly identified as being honorary."*

*To that end, I request the following information, under FOI if necessary:*

- 1. Please advise as to the total number of emails that have been sent on behalf of Karen Reid or David Garbutt over the previous twelve months, where the use of their honorary titles has not been made clear within the context of the email.*

*\* Titles used within email of Tues 17 June 2025 to all Resident Doctors in Training:  
'NES welcomes Scottish Government Announcement'*

- Dr David Garbutt QPM, Chartered FCIPD, Chair, NHS Education for Scotland*
- Professor Karen Reid, Chief Executive, NHS Education for Scotland*



Chair: David Garbutt  
Chief Executive: Karen Reid

In response to your request:

**1. Please advise as to the total number of emails that have been sent on behalf of Karen Reid or David Garbutt over the previous twelve months, where the use of their honorary titles has not been made clear within the context of the email.**

It is not possible to provide the information you have requested – this is because of the volume of emails which are received, issued, retained and deleted. Some are issued personally by the Chair or CEO and some on their behalf by their offices. Not all emails are required to be retained and therefore it is not possible to provide a precise number given the specifics of your request. As such, under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) the information you describe is not held by NES.

You should note that both the Chair and the CEO make clear on their NES official biographies and/or LinkedIn (all of which is in the public domain) that respective awards conveyed by respective universities are honorary – and this information would be confirmed on request. Both the Chair and CEO (respectively) act in accordance with guidance received from awarding institutions.

If you are dissatisfied with this reply under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you should contact us again in writing or by email within 40 days of receipt of this response to request an internal review.

If you remain unhappy with the outcome of that review you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of the outcome of the review. The Commissioner will decide whether they feel there is a case to take forward. They can be contacted at:

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

e-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Alternatively, you can make application directly via the Scottish Information Commissioner;

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

Yours sincerely



Corporate Business Officer