Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

I refer to your e-mail dated 16 November 2015, requesting:

"I am making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like the following information:

1. What is the total number of psychiatric facilities in the Health Board area.

   How many of the psychiatric facilities in the health board area have locked wards and/or locked rooms? (By 'locked ward' or 'locked room' I mean any ward or room where patients are unable to leave without constant supervision, if at all)

   Details of what premises/facilities have these locked wards/rooms and how long have they been used as locked facilities.

   When was the last independent report/examination/inspection of each of these locked wards/rooms? Please supply full details of the any written findings of this report/examination/inspection

   How many incidents of patients being held in locked wards and/or locked rooms were recorded in each of the past three years.

   How many patients were held in locked wards and/or rooms in each of the past three years, please include details of how long each individual was held in a locked ward/room.

   How many individuals have been housed in a locked ward/room for more than six months over the past five years

   For any individual who has been housed in a locked ward/room for more than six months over the past five years please provide details of:
   - age
- sex
- condition(s) for which they are being treated
- when they were first admitted to psychiatric care
- length of time they have spent in a locked ward/room over the past five years
- details of why the patient was initially placed in a locked ward/room
- whether the patient has absconded at any time over the previous five years
- whether the patient is currently held in a locked ward/room.

2. How many incidents of physical restraint were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?

How many patients experienced physical restraint were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?

How many incidents of face down restraint were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?

How many incidents of physical restraint used to administer medication were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?

How many incidents where police were involved in physical restraint were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years?

How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?

How man incidents of physical restraint resulting in physical in injury were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years?

How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?

How many incidents of physical restraint resulting in psychological harm were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years?

How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?

How many incidents of physical restraint resulting in death at facilities were recorded in each of the last three years?

How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?

How many complaints relating to physical restraint were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years?

How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?”

I can now respond as follows:

What is the total number of psychiatric facilities in the Health Board area. AND How many of the psychiatric facilities in the health board area have locked wards and/or locked rooms? (By 'locked ward' or 'locked room' I mean any ward or room where patients are unable to leave without constant supervision, if at all) AND
Details of what premises/facilities have these locked wards/rooms and how long have they been used as locked facilities.

NHS Grampian can advise that we have facilities at Royal Cornhill Hospital Aberdeen, Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, and one ward at Seafield Hospital in Buckie. The Royal Cornhill Hospital site also includes two wards for the care of patients with a Learning Disability.

Older Adults
Within NHSG we have four wards that remain locked all the time. As these patients suffer from Dementia they are likely to wonder and get lost as they lack insight of the risks they will experience in the external environment and/ or lack knowledge on how to keep themselves safe. We, therefore, keep the doors locked to keep the patients safe. The Mental Welfare Commission reviewed these wards within the last year.

Learning Disabilities
NHS Grampian Learning Disability Service has 18 inpatient beds divided between two inpatient wards, and one Occupational Therapy Day Unit. The external doors and some internal doors within all environments remain locked to ensure general privacy, and to protect those learning disabled patients who lack capacity to make decisions under the Adults with Incapacity Act 2000; lack insight of the risks they will experience in the external environment and or lack knowledge on how to keep themselves safe. A local locked door policy is in place to give guidance to staff.

All patients and visitors are made aware of the policy early on their arrival at the ward. A person centred approach is taken to the communication of this information and an adapted communication leaflet is available for those who have difficulty reading. In line with the principles of The Mental Health (Care and Treatment)(Scotland) Act 2003 and the Adults with Incapacity Act 2000, those patients who do not require the safety of a locked environment can request to leave, and will be supported to leave the ward at any time.

NHS Grampian staff will utilise a suite of tools aligned to the NHS Grampian Risk Assessment Policy and these are used to ensure the least restrictive approaches are taken for all individuals.

The NHS Grampian Incident Recording System documents all adverse events. Nursing staff work within the principles of the NHS Grampian Physical Interventions Policy, where restraint is considered a last resort, and must be in the best interest of the patient. The Service has had no patient related injuries, as a result of restraint implementation, and we have had no restraint related deaths. The Mental Welfare Commission reviewed our service on the 29th of September 2015 and raised no restraint related concerns.

Forensic
3 Wards, an Outreach team and a Hostel make up the services provided for Grampian, Shetland and Orkney's Mentally Disordered Offender and Challenging Behaviours/difficult to manage AMH populations. Forensic Acute is an 8 bedded Male Admission Unit. Forensic Rehabilitation is a 16 bedded male Ward. IPCU is an 11 bedded mixed sex ward with provision for Female Forensic Admissions. The journey is through the Admission wards (FA and IPCU) to Great Western Road Hostel into the community for Forensic Male Admissions. Forensic Female Admissions complete their rehabilitation from the IPCU ward but utilise aspects of Forensic Rehabilitation’s gym, kitchen, Education Officer. Ward and Community staff are always available to support this process. There is close links between Clinical Team, Police Scotland, Procurator Fiscal and Prison Service.

Our Population are managed under the Criminal Procedures Act 1995 and Mental Health Care and Treatment Act 2003. We have recourse to utilise Specified Persons with
Responsible Medical Officers’ giving reasoned judgements, NHS Grampians Physical Intervention Policy as a last resort and follow up with debriefs, MAPPAs (Multi Agency Public Protection), Enhanced/Care Programme Approach, Case Reviews.

We have been reviewed by the MWC at least once for each area in the last year. Other than being a locked Unit with a locked door allowing access and egress to each ward and Unit, overall we have no locked doors on any patient’s room and no Seclusion facilities.

**Adult Acute Admission Wards**

There are 5 admission wards which are not routinely locked, however, there are occasions when the entrance doors may be locked as a considered response to patient’s clinical presentations. We do not record how many patients are cared for in each ward while the doors are locked however all patients and visitors are made aware of the ‘locked door policy’, which is prominently displayed when the entrance door is locked.

In line with the principles of The Mental Health (Care and Treatment)(Scotland) Act 2003 and the Adults with Incapacity Act 2000, those patients who do not require the safety of a locked environment can request to leave the ward at their convenience, and are supported to leave the ward at any time.

**When was the last independent report/examination/inspection of each of these locked wards/rooms? Please supply full details of the any written findings of this report/examination/inspection**

NHS Grampian can advise that The Mental Welfare Commission have visited the adult wards within the last 2 months.

**How many incidents of patients being held in locked wards and/or locked rooms were recorded in each of the past three years. AND**

**How many patients were held in locked wards and/or rooms in each of the past three years, please include details of how long each individual was held in a locked ward/room. AND**

**How many individuals have been housed in a locked ward/room for more than six months over the past five years**

NHS Grampian can advise that we are unable to provide this information as to do so may identify individual patients; s.38(1)(b) of the Act refers – Personal Information

We can advise that we have several wards that are locked on a permanent basis, and some that are locked dependent on patient needs. We do not record how many patients are cared for in each ward while the doors are locked. Some of our patients will be cared for in a locked ward for more than six months, this is because they are detained by the Secretary of State for Scotland. Please note we do not lock individual rooms.

**For any individual who has been housed in a locked ward/room for more than six months over the past five years please provide details of:**

- age, sex, condition(s) for which they are being treated, when they were first admitted to psychiatric care, length of time they have spent in a locked ward/room over the past five years, details of why the patient was initially placed in a locked ward/room, whether the patient has absconded at any time over the previous five years, whether the patient is currently held in a locked ward/room.

NHS Grampian is unable to provide this information as to do so may identify the individual patients; s.38(1)(b) of the Act refers – Personal Information.
How many incidents of physical restraint were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?
The total number of incidents for the use of physical intervention in NHS Grampian is 3330. NHS Grampian can advise that physical intervention was used to manage violence and aggression from patients, or to prevent the patient from harm.

How many incidents of face down restraint were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?
NHS Grampian is unable to provide this information as the information on the position of restraint is recorded in free text within the incident recording form. This would require a review of each individual record. To obtain this information would involve reviewing each individual incident recorded, which would exceed the prescribed time limit; s.12 of the Act refers – Excessive cost of compliance.

How many incidents of physical restraint used to administer medication were recorded at facilities within the health board area in each of the last three years?
NHS Grampian is unable to provide this information as each incident would require to be reviewed individually. Therefore, to review and collate this information would exceed the prescribed time limit; s.12 of the Act refers – Excessive cost of compliance.

How many incidents where police were involved in physical restraint were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years? AND
How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?
NHS Grampian can advise that Police Scotland do not use restraint on psychiatric inpatients as it is against their operational policy.

How many incidents of physical restraint resulting in physical injury were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years? AND
How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?
NHS Grampian is unable to provide this information as the information is not in an easily retrievable format, as it is written in free text on an incident form, held within the patient’s notes. To obtain this information would involve reviewing each individual patient’s record / nursing notes which would exceed the prescribed time limit; s.12 of the Act refers – Excessive cost of compliance.

How many incidents of physical restraint resulting in psychological harm were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years? AND
How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?
NHS Grampian can advise that there is no way to measure the number of incidents of physical restraint, which resulted in psychological harm. As such, in order to provide this information would require reviewing each individual patient’s record / nursing notes which would exceed the time limit as prescribed by the Act ; s.12 of the Act refers – Excessive cost of compliance.
How many incidents of physical restraint resulting in death at facilities were recoded in each of the last three years? AND
How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?
NHS Grampian can advise that there has never been a restraint related death in NHS Grampian.

How many complaints relating to physical restraint were recorded at facilities in each of the last three years?
NHS Grampian can advise that less than 5 complaints were recorded in each of the last three years, in relation to physical restraint. Please note we are unable to provide the exact figure as to do so may identify the individual patients; s.38(1)(b) of the Act refers – Personal Information.

How many of these were involving patients held in locked wards and/or locked rooms?
NHS Grampian can advise that less than 5 of these complaints involved a patient who was held in a locked ward and/or locked room. Please note we are unable to provide the exact figure as to do so may identify the individual patients; s.38(1)(b) of the Act refers – Personal Information.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Grampian 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 Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within 40 working days and should, in the first instance, be in writing to: Directorate of Corporate Communications, Foresterhill House, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZB or by email to grampian@nhs.net

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS 
Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611 
e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely

Chris Morrice
Information Governance Manager
NHS Grampian