

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ME-CFS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ME-CFS.

Question:

1. In 2019, how many patients were admitted to the ME-CFS service at the Astley Ainsley hospital in Edinburgh for ME?
2. In 2020, how many patients were admitted to the ME-CFS service at the Astley Ainsley hospital in Edinburgh for ME?
3. In 2021, how many patients were admitted to the ME-CFS service at the Astley Ainsley hospital in Edinburgh for ME?
4. In 2022, how many patients were admitted to the ME-CFS service at the Astley Ainsley hospital in Edinburgh for ME?
5. In 2023 so far, how many patients were admitted to the ME-CFS service at the Astley Ainsley hospital in Edinburgh for ME?

Answer:

If admission means admission to an inpatient bed, then we do not admit patients with ME/CFS for inpatient rehabilitation. Inpatient rehabilitation is only for patients who are unable to exist in their own homes, due to the severity of their disability to extent that they cannot manage continence, making light snacks or dressing for instance. This is not usually the case for someone with ME/CFS.

Question:

6. Is this service consultant-led?

Answer:

No.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply

within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive