

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ROBOTIC GENERAL SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Robotic General Surgery within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic
2. Type of robot available in your trust and used in emergency general surgery cases (Examples include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand, Soloassist, Microhand S, AESOP, Zeus).
3. Number of robotic general surgery cases performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. (this includes both emergency and non-emergency operations)
4. Number the following performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic
 1. hot cholecystectomies
 2. laparotomies
 3. appendectomies
 4. hernia repairs
 5. abscess
 6. scrotal explorations (which may be under torsions or orchidopexy)

Regarding the abscess questions we are interested in all incision and drainages of abscesses in perianal, truncal, buttock and limb areas.

6. Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following performed between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic.
 1. hot cholecystectomies
 2. laparotomies (how many times open abdomens are done)
 3. appendectomies
 4. hernia repairs
 5. abscess
 6. scrotal explorations (which may be under torsions or orchidopexy)

7. The number and type of complications that occurred in robotic emergency general surgery cases between January 1st 2019-January 1st 2023. Including but not limited to conversions to another type of surgery, device-related complications, injury to surrounding structures or tissue, serums, infection, leakage, hernias.
8. Number of staff trained to assist with robotic cases.
9. The average (Over 4 weeks) number of staff trained to assist n robotic surgery available out of hours (weekends/nights).

Answer:

I am advised that we did not have and Robotic General Surgery in place during the time frame requested. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive