

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENDER REASSIGNMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to gender reassignment.

Question:

1. Please provide the number of Male to Female gender reassignment procedures sanctioned by NHS Lothian in each of the years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Answer:

Year	Number of referrals for male to female gender reassignment surgery authorised by NHS Lothian
2019	11
2020	5<*
2021	9
2022	5<
2023	19

*Numbers fewer than five are reported as 5< to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

2. Please provide the number of Male to Female gender reassignment procedures carried out on behalf of NHS Lothian in each of the years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Answer:

NHS Lothian cannot provide date of surgery being completed without going into individual records of those patients referred. All gender reassignment surgeries for Scottish residents are funded centrally by NHS National Services Scotland. They may be able to ascertain the number of surgeries actually completed for NHS Lothian residents following referral, from data

fed back to them by the various hospitals in England which hold the contracts with NHS England for this type of surgery. The email for NHS National Services Scotland is nss.foi@nhs.scot

The list of hospitals in England providing surgery can be found here:
[Surgery Providers – National Gender Identity Clinical Network for Scotland](#)

Question:

3. Please provide the following procedure costs: Average cost; Minimum cost and Maximum cost, of Male to Female gender reassignment procedures invoiced on NHS Lothian in each of the years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold information on the cost of the procedures as NHS Lothian is not invoiced for procedures. Gender reassignment surgery for Scottish residents is made available as part of NHS England commissioned contracts with various hospitals in England, to which Scottish residents have access. This access is negotiated by NHS National Services Scotland and funding is held centrally by NHS National Services Scotland. Please ask National Services Scotland for the costs which NHS England has negotiated with the various providers. The service specifications can be found here:

[NHS-England-Service-Specification-for-Specialised-Gender-Dysphoria-Services-Surgical-v4.pdf](#)

Question:

4. Please provide the budget allocation for Male to Female gender reassignment procedures planned by NHS Lothian in each of the years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Answer:

As above, budget for this type of surgery is held centrally by NHS National Services Scotland on behalf of all NHS Boards in Scotland.

Question:

5. Please provide the number of Male to Female gender reassignment procedures sanctioned to be conducted outside of the UK: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not to date authorised any male to female gender reassignment procedures to be conducted outside of UK.

Question:

6. Please provide the number of Male to Female gender reassignment procedures sanctioned by NHS Lothian to be completed in the private clinical sector: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Answer:

All of the referrals authorised by NHS Lothian in the above table (question one) are referrals to the private clinical sector, either to Nuffield Health Brighton Hospital, or to Nuffield Health Parkside Hospital (Wimbledon). This provision in the private sector is commissioned by NHS England. NHS Lothian does not authorise referrals to the private sector outwith these NHS commissioned contracts.

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
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive