

Date: 07/03/2024  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8409

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch  
Extension: 35687  
Direct Line: 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH TRIBUNALS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Mental Health Tribunals.

Question:

- Does NHS Lothian source interpreters for Mental Health Tribunals?

Answer:

Yes

Question:

- Does NHS Lothian pay for interpreters for Mental Health Tribunals?

Answer:

Yes

Question:

- If NHS Lothian sources and pays for interpreters, do you source agency interpreters instead of in-house or bank interpreters to eliminate any conflict of interest?

Answer:

No, all work is in the first instance, offered to our Bank interpreters, and if nobody is available it would go to agency.

Question:

- Does NHS Lothian provide interpreters for Advocacy meetings when this is linked to a Mental Health Tribunal?

Answer:

Yes, if a request comes from an NHS Lothian staff member, on behalf of a patient who is involved with the meeting we would provide an interpreter.

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](http://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**  
**Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive