

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DOG ATTACKS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dog attack attendances within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. The total number of attendances to A&E departments within this NHS health board because of a dog bite or attack across the last five years. (Please could this data be broken down into the last five years, 2023-24, 2022-23, 2021-22, 2020-21 and 2019-20).
2. The age range of these attendances (please could this be broken down into age categories).
3. The severity of these attendances (how many of these were minor injuries and how many were classed as more serious instances).

Answer:

Financial year	All	Age group			Triage category	
		0-17 years	18-64 years	65+ years	1-3	4-9 & not triaged
All	5900	1227	4007	666	683	5217
2019/20	1231	234	857	140	96	1135
2020/21	1056	233	726	97	109	947
2021/22	1204	282	778	144	134	1070
2022/23	1247	229	865	153	158	1089
2023/24*	1162	249	781	132	186	976

Triage category 1-3 is Minor Injuries and then 4-9 is more serious.

Data source: NHS Lothian TRAK care

Date of extract: 28/02/2024

Date ranges: 01/04/2019 - 26/02/2024 inclusively

Financial year 2023-2024 includes data up to and including 26/02/2024

A search was performed for diagnosis code "Bitten or struck by dog" [W54].

A search was performed for A&E presenting complaints for: ("dog" AND ("bite" OR "bitten" OR "attack" OR "bit" OR "maul")) OR "dogbite" irrespective of letter case. Misspellings were excluded.

The Western General Hospital A&E department does not code diagnoses.

Age is defined as age at A&E arrival.

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