

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PORTERS**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to porters within NHS Lothian for each year in the last five-year period (from 2019/20).

Question:

1. The number of full-time equivalent vacancies and actual vacancies (unfilled posts) in hospital porter posts

Answer:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
WTE vacant	6.30	no WTE vacant	0.97	4.77	0.70

The vacancy figures are calculated by taking an average of the establishment gaps for all portering service. This means that vacancies in one service can be off set by an over-establishment in another.

Question:

2. The total number of days lost to sickness in hospital porters in the health board area
4. The mean number of sick days recorded by hospital porters in the health board area
5. The median number of sick days recorded by hospital porters in the health board area

Answer:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 to date
working days off	7,406.00	4,925.00	8,038.00	8,499.00	5,365.50
mean	32.20	21.89	29.88	28.81	19.51
median	13.00	8.00	13.00	12.50	10.00

Question:

3. The total number of days lost to mental health leave in hospital porters in you board.
6. The mean number of mental health days taken by hospital porters in the health board area

Answer:

The figures below are the mean of the staff that had 'Anxiety/stress/depression/other psychiatric illnesses' sickness absence, and does not include staff that did not take absence for this reason.

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 to date
working days lost	1,421.00	1,406.50	1,859.00	1,238.00	885.00
mean	71.05	43.95	40.41	36.41	27.59

Question:

7. The number of health and safety reports made involving hospital porters in the health board area
8. The number of violent incidents referred to the police involving hospital porters in the health board area. if you looked at the total adverse events reported on Datix and, secondly, incidents where a porter was affected.

Answer:

I advised that the information requested is not held in a centrally extractable format. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files porters over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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**  
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Cc: Chief Executive