

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DEATHS DURING DELAYED DISCHARGE**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patient deaths while awaiting discharge in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

1. Please provide the number of patients who died in hospital while awaiting discharge after it was delayed. Please also state how many were delayed because they were waiting for health and social care reasons. Please provide this information for each calendar year since 2010 (including 2023).
2. Please provide the number of patients 65 and over who died in hospital while awaiting discharge after it was delayed. Please also state how many were delayed because they were waiting for health and social care reasons. Please provide this information for each calendar year since 2010 (including 2023).
3. Please provide the number of patients with dementia who died in hospital while awaiting discharge after it was delayed. Please also state how many were delayed because they were waiting for health and social care reasons. Please provide this information for each calendar year since 2010 (including 2023).

### Answer:

The table below details the information you have requested. Data on delayed discharges is only available from 2017 onwards. This is because prior to that date data was collected using a different system which is not readily accessible or comparable to the data since 2017.

<b>Patient deaths while discharge was delayed, NHS Lothian</b>						
	<b>All delays</b>		<b>Delays of patients over 65 years</b>		<b>Delays of patients with dementia</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total no. deaths during delayed discharge</b>	<b>No. deaths during health and social care delay</b>	<b>Total no. deaths during delayed discharge</b>	<b>No. deaths during health and social care delay</b>	<b>Total no. deaths during delayed discharge</b>	<b>No. deaths during health and social care delay</b>
2017	72	70	69	67	20	20
2018	71	70	67	66	16	16
2019	55	54	53	52	10	10
2020	20	19	16	15	6	6
2021	35	34	35	34	8	8
2022	44	41	40	37	12	10
2023	32	31	28	27	10	9

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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
 Cc: Chief Executive