

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PATIENT MEALS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patient meals within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- The total £ amount spent on patient meals for the last 5 years, broken down by year.
01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019
01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020
01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023

Answer:

Based on ledger information, costs coded to the ledger under catering account code are shown under Other sites with the RIE PFI Catering charges shown below that to give a total.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Other Non PFI sites	7.7	7.3	7.8	9.8	9.9
RIE PFI	3.3	3	3.1	3.7	3.8
Total	11.0	10.3	10.9	13.5	13.7

This is the total cost - there is not split between staff and patient costs available.
This is also based on financial year and not calendar year as requested.

Question:

- The average daily cost of meals per patient in £, given as a yearly figure for the last 5 years (i.e how much does it cost to feed one patient for a day)
01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019
01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020
01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021
01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023

Answer:

Based on available information the following is the Catering Services - Provisions Costs Per Patient Day

Year	Average Expenditure
2019/20	£4.42
2020/21	£5.22
2021/22	£5.16
2022/23	£6.04
2023/24	£7.14

Question:

3. The amount of food wasted and what % this accounts for of total food served for the last 5 years, broken down by year. I would like the 'amount' of food wasted given as a weight measurement if possible.

01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021

01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022

01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023

Answer:

We do not currently have data to answer this, but we are in the process of developing systems to record this on a meal-by-meal basis to commence 1st April 2024. The departments are procuring the scales and the project team have developed the sheets to record the waste. The idea is to target wards with high levels of food waste.

As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 currently we do not hold this information.

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