

Date: 11/04/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8534

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – JOINT WORKING AND DONATIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to joint working and donations within NHS Lothian Pharmacy.

Question:

1. All joint working agreements in place in your health board over the last 5 years, dated today, including the payment amounts and which companies they were from, and for what purpose.

This may include education, staff, clinics, and physical resources.

2. Any donations, gifts, funding from any pharmaceutical or devices company in the last 5 years, and the purposes these were put to.

Answer:

I am advised that we do not hold this information 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 and ledgers 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.

The industry via ABPI have a requirement to publish the data around sponsorship and can be accessed by the public at the following link: [Disclosure UK \(abpi.org.uk\)](http://Disclosure UK (abpi.org.uk)). Full datasets can be downloaded to explore and filter by anyone.

Please also see NHS Lothian's gifts and hospitality register. This is the only centrally collected information (other detail maybe held by individual departments) [From 1 January 2009 \(nhslothian.scot\)](http://From 1 January 2009 (nhslothian.scot)).

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
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive