

Date: 11/04/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8543

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CHRONIC PAIN

I write in response to your request for information in relation to chronic pain and children within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. On children with long term pain for any reason, approximately how many in numbers does your pain service see in a year a) inpatient and b) outpatient?

Answer:

Our chronic pain service has reviewed 52 new out-patients in the past 12 months but has a current workload of 137 patients. We have also discharged 54 patients in the past 12 months (in total we have had 191 patients through our service in the past 12 months).

Question:

2. Has there been an increase or decrease in the last five years?

Answer:

Increase in new patients
Increase in total patients

Question:

3. If an increase, please give idea of numbers or percentage increase and if the reasons are known.

Answer:

Increase in new patients - 4%
Increase in total patients - 30.8%

- More recognition of persistent pain in children and young people.
- Increase in awareness of our service.
- Impact from lockdown on mental health of patients which has knock on effect to physical symptoms.

Question:

4. Have you had referrals of children/youths with Long Covid who suffer pain - if so, approximately how many in numbers or percentage of all child pain patients?

Answer:

There have been 5 or fewer patients.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

5. Do you have specialist staff or facilities dealing with child pain outside of your main facility? If so, please name areas.

Answer:

No.

Question:

6. What are your staffing levels for aiding children with chronic/long term pain for any reason?

Answer:

Specialist Clinicians WTE hours weekly	0.23
Other doctors WTE hours	0
Nurses. WTE hours	2.96 but this includes acute, chronic, oncology, critical care, palliative care and procedural pain workload (we do not have dedicated nursing staff solely for chronic pain)
Physiotherapists WTE hours	0
Educational or occupational therapist. WTE hours	0
Any other staff involved. WTE	0

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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