

Date: 15/04/2024  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8557

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Dear

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LITHIUM ASSAY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Lithium assay within NHS Lothian.

#### Question:

- How many people in the months between June - December were having bloods done for a Lithium assay. (how many people in NHS Lothian are on Lithium having their bloods monitored)
- Would it be possible to know the age distribution of this group
  - 18-25
  - 26-35
  - 36-45
  - 46-55
  - 56-65
  - 66-75
  - 75-... (years of age)
- Can the distribution of this group be broken down by gender and grouped by health board

#### Answer:

Gender	Age Group	Number of Patients
female	18-25	19
female	26-35	48
female	36-45	71
female	46-55	91
female	56-65	121
female	66-75	108
female	76+	100
male	18-25	13
male	26-35	30
male	36-45	54
male	46-55	73

male	56-65	72
male	66-75	47
male	76+	49

#### Notes

Please note that we were only able to provide the number of people that had lithium blood assays performed between June-December 2023 as requested within Lothian HB.

We were unable to provide linked data to whether those people are receiving Lithium medication because this is not data readily available would require creating a new dataset, which is with cost exemption set under the Act.

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 relating to patients 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.

#### Question:

- Is it possible to get this information for Scotland wide or is there a different process for this?

#### Answer:

Detail for Scotland as a whole is not held by NHS Lothian. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – information not held. I would advise you to contact Public Health Scotland for further detail.

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