

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENOPAUSE CLINICS**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to menopause clinics

Question:

1. Do you offer access to menopause clinics, through GP referral?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

2. If so, can you please give us a breakdown of the number of referrals made each year since 2019-2020, up to and including 2023-24?

Answer:

We do not store this data as referrals come in a variety of ways, from informal, formal, GP letters, email responds, clinical advice requests from other healthcare colleagues. We do not actively record the number of referrals from any of these methods.

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:

3. What is the current average wait time between referral and first appointment?

Answer:

Current wait for new menopause appointment 21weeks.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

**Headquarters**  
Waverley Gate  
2-4 Waterloo Place  
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

**Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE**  
**Interim Chief Executive Jim Crombie**  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*

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