

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GIC**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to gender identity clinic services.

Question:

1. Total annual sexual health budget of NHS Lothian, 2007 to present
2. Total annual budget of gender identity clinic services, 2010 to present
3. Total number of adult gender services patients, annually, 2010 to present:
4. Total number of child gender services patients, annually, 2010 to present:
5. Total number of prescriptions given to adults for transsexual hormones (excluding puberty blockers), annually, 2010 to present
6. Total number of prescriptions given to children for transsexual hormones (excluding puberty blockers), annually, 2010 to present
7. Total number of prescriptions given to children for puberty blockers, annually, 2010 to present
8. Total number of prescriptions given to adults for puberty blockers, annually, 2010 to present
9. Total number of adult patients on a transsexual treatment pathway to take hormones for life who ceased taking\* hormones between 2010 and present
10. Total number of child patients on a transsexual treatment pathway to take hormones for life who ceased taking hormones between 2010 and present:
11. Total number of current adult patients on a transsexual treatment pathway to take hormones for life
12. Total number of current child patients on a transsexual treatment pathway to take hormones for life
13. Total number of current patients on puberty blockers

Answer:

1.	See table below.
2.	See table below.
3.	This data is in the public domain for years we have this information. <a href="https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/">https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/</a>
4.	NHS Lothian do not operate child gender services
5.	Prescriptions are provided in a variety of ways by different providers, we would be unable to provide this information. If we were to provide a report on specific drugs, we would not be able to confirm this was for the specific purpose of gender care.

6.	NHS Lothian do not operate child gender services.
7.	<p>We do not run a gender identity clinic for children, but our tertiary paediatric endocrine team have been performing pubertal assessments and prescribing puberty suppressing hormones to children referred from the Sandyford Clinic with Gender Dysphoria for some time (c2014). As a tertiary service they cover children from Lothian, Tayside, Fife, Highland and Grampian.</p> <p>This pathway of referral has now paused with no new patients being accepted at this time but we have a total of 17 patients on puberty suppressing hormones (across Lothian, Tayside and Highland) currently on treatment. <u>9 of whom are Lothian residents</u>. Those aged 16-18yrs can be treated either in paediatric endocrinology or the adult gender service (run by Chalmers).</p>
8.	Prescriptions are provided in a variety of ways by different providers, we would be unable to provide this information. If we were to provide a report on specific drugs, we would not be able to confirm this was for the specific purpose of 'puberty blocking'.
9.	We do not routinely capture these data.
10.	NHS Lothian do not operate child gender services.
11.	We do not routinely capture these data.*
12.	We do not routinely capture these data.*
13.	See answer to Q7.
Where we do not routinely capture the data requested, this would involve reviewing individual clinical records which would exceed the time required to respond to an FOI.	

\*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.

#### NHS Lothian Gender Service:

\*Note - No data for Gender Service prior to 18/19

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
<b>Budget:</b>	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
	£110	£135	£148	£143	£275	£692

#### NHS Lothian Sexual Health Services: Hosted By East Lothian Partnership

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
<b>Budget:</b>	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
	£4.46	£4.81	£5.04	£5.39	£5.52	£5.70	£6.23	£6.35	£6.65	£7.31	£7.95

\*No data prior to 13/14

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

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
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Cc: Chief Executive