

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENDER AFFIRMING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to gender affirming.

Question:

1. Number of facial feminisation procedures performed, annually, from 2010 to present, and annual expense on these.
2. Number of tracheal shave procedures performed, annually, from 2010 to present, and annual expense on these.
3. Number of breast augmentation procedures performed under the umbrella of gender-affirming services, annually, from 2010 to present, and annual expense on these
4. Number of referrals to speech therapists under the umbrella of gender-affirming services, annually, from 2010 to present, and annual expense on these SLT team
5. Number of tattoo removal procedures performed under the umbrella of gender-affirming services, annually, from 2010 to present, and annual expense on these
6. Total annual expense, from 2010 to present, on Scrotoplasty procedures, and number of such procedures. Please also provide the annual expense on the testicular implants themselves, if applicable.

Answer:

1.	NHS Lothian does not provide facial feminisation surgery. Referrals for patients that reside in Health Boards outside of NHS Lothian that may offer this service are not routinely stored by the gender team.
2.	NHS Lothian does not provide tracheal shave procedures. Referrals for patients that reside in Health Boards outside of NHS Lothian that may offer this service are not routinely stored by the gender team.
3.	Breast augmentation is not provided under the national contract or in NHS Lothian for gender patients.
4.	SLT Lothian have a record of referrals received for gender-affirming voice and communication therapy from 2013 to present. Please see table below. However, these numbers reflect all the referrals we have received for gender-affirming voice and communication therapy (VCT) and therefore include a few referrals from private gender services and out-of-area SLTs, as well as the referrals from Chalmers

	<p>GIC.</p> <p>Please note, our numbers are only for Lothian-based clients, they do not include Chalmers' referrals to SLT in Fife or Borders. Numbers provided below</p> <p>We unfortunately are unable to estimate the cost on the service or the number of gender-affirming VCT contacts delivered. We having been waiting for the Trak team to give us a separate code for our gender-affirming VCT caseload, which is currently combined with other caseloads within our SLT-ENT code.</p>
5.	This is not a service offered by NHS Lothian
6.	<p>The total number of Lothian residents authorised for NHS-funded female to male genital reconstruction surgery over the ten years 2014-2023 is 22. The specific surgery that a patient goes on to have depends on discussion with their surgeon, so at the point of referral authorisation, NHS Lothian cannot break down the data further into specific procedures e.g. metoidioplasty, phalloplasty, with or without scrotoplasty. Not all authorised referrals will result in surgery.</p> <p>All referrals for gender reassignment surgery are administered centrally for UK residents by the Gender Dysphoria National Referral Support Service which is based within NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit. They may hold data on the specific surgeries completed, as may NHS National Services Scotland (National Specialist and Screening Directorate). The budget for gender reassignment surgery for residents in Scotland is held by NHS National Services Scotland and they have oversight of the NHS England commissioned four-nations contract. Please ask them about annual cost of testicular implants: nss.foi@nhs.scot</p>

2. SLT Referrals	
Year	Total Referrals
2013	14
2014	31
2015	20
2016	49
2017	80
2018	50
2019	33
2020	42
2021	35
2022	41
2023	138

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
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Cc: Chief Executive