

Dear

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENDER REFERRALS

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

Question:

1. Number of referrals for gender services, annually, from 2010 to present
  - a. Of these, number which were referrals from GPs, were self-referrals, referrals from other gender or sexual health services, and referrals from any other source.
2. Proportion of patients referred to gender services who were later prescribed/given gender-affirming treatments/medication, annually, from 2010 to present
3. Of the patients who did receive gender-affirming treatments in (2), please provide, by year from 2010 (by referral here I mean 'referral to gender services):
  - a. Mean average time between referral and decision to treat for adult patients
  - b. (a) broken down by MtF and FtM patients
  - c. Mean average time between referral and decision to treat for child patients
  - d. (a) broken down by MtF and FtM patients
  - e. Shortest time between referral and decision to treat for adult and child patients
  - f. Longest time between referral and decision to treat for adult and child patients
  - g. Mean average number of contact hours with a clinical psychologist for patients between referral and decision to treat
  - h. Lowest single number of contact hours by a patients with a clinical psychologist between referral and decision to treat
4. Between 2010 and present, broken down by individual prescribing clinician (can be referred to by a number of pseudonym to preserve anonymity), proportion of referred-to patients for whom a decision to treat with hormones or puberty blockers was made.

Answer:

1.	These data are presented in the public domain: <a href="https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/">https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/</a> . NHS Lothian GIC usually requires referral via GP to accept the referral. We have only just recently specifically tracked the number of referrals from other NHS gender services but do not yet have 1 year's worth of data.
2.	These data are not routinely recorded outside of patient's clinical records*
3a.	These data are not routinely recorded outside of patient's clinical records*.

3b.	These data are not routinely recorded outside of patient's clinical records*
3c.	NHS Lothian GIC manages adult patients.
3d.	see 3(c)
3e.	These data are not routinely recorded outside of the clinical records*
3f.	These data are not routinely recorded outside of the clinical records*
3g.	These data are not routinely recorded*
3h.	Zero - Not all patients are seen by a clinical psychologist prior to commencing treatment.
4.	These data are not routinely collected outside of the clinical records*
*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.	

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