

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REVIEW – ASSISTED DYING ORGANISATIONS

I write in response to your request for review of NHS Lothian's response to your Freedom of Information request about assisted dying organisations in NHS Lothian.

Having discussed your request and our response of 9 April 2024 further, I can respond as follows:

Original Request and Response:

Question:

Please provide any and all information supplied by the below groups to NHS Lothian including any plus all information supplied to the below groups by NHS Lothian.

Dignity in dying.

Dignitas.

Exit UK.

Friends at the end.

Any other pro euthanasia or assisted dying organisation or advocate.

In text, audio, visual or any other data format Between 1/1/2022 - 1/1/2023 to or present within the trust.

Please also disclose any financial deposits, property gifts, donations or profitable exchanges between NHS Lothian and the mentioned groups within the same period if such has occurred and is on record.

Answer:

No payments have been made from NHS Lothian to the groups specified above, and no information has been shared between these groups and NHS Lothian.

The NHS Lothian Charity is a trust which is not bound by the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act so they have not provided information about any information sharing or payments. They make a statement on their website about information sharing here https://nhsllothiancharity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Freedom_of_Information_Statement-December-2022_FINAL.pdf.

They are also required to disclose donations over £50,000 in their annual accounts, which can be found on their website here: <https://nhslothiancharity.org/about-us/annual-report/>.

Review Request:

The response only seems to provide a response in regards NHS Lothians capacity as a charity. The response does not state if there is or has been any other capacity in which data or money or any other goods or services may have been passed between the trust and the mentioned groups.

Such as if NHS Lothian is a registered company with companies house and such transactions may have occurred as specified in the original FOISR.

If there have been any other avenues that such has or could have passed between the trust and groups, if they exist, please provide these with what data, goods, services or money passed between the hospital and the mentioned organisations if such has occurred within scope of the original FOISR.

Also, please provide a disclosure of all monies on or under the £50,000 if given to such groups by the trust or received by the trust from the mentioned groups.

Review Response:

I can clarify that NHS Lothian has not made any payments to any of the organisations you have listed, and there has been no information sharing between any of them and NHS Lothian.

The purpose of including details about NHS Lothian Charity in our original response was to show that although no payments have been made by NHS Lothian, this does not include the NHS Lothian Charity which is not subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act.

If you are not satisfied with this response you still have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner who you can contact at the address below or 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.

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews, Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
Fax: 01334 464611
e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely

Janis Butler
Freedom of Information Reviewer/
Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
cc: Executive Nurse Director