

Date: 23/05/2024  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8727

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch  
Extension: 35687  
Direct Line: 0131 465 5687  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DELAYED DISCHARGE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to delayed discharge within NHS Lothian

### Question:

1. Number and proportion of bed days in your health board, by month since January 2018, occupied by patients who were at that time delayed in being discharged. Please also break this down by hospital.
2. Number and proportion of bed days occupied in your health board, by month since January 2018, by patients delayed in their discharge due to lack of social care availability.
3. Total bed day capacity in your health board, by month since January 2018.

### Answer:

The best source of Delayed Discharges information is based on the validated monthly Census figures validated and published by Public Health Scotland (PHS). This ensures accuracy and consistency over geographies and time. The relevant published information can be found at:

<https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/hospital-beds-information>  
[Publications - Delayed discharges - Acute and emergency services - Our areas of work - Public Health Scotland](#)

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible.

- (1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

I hope the publicly available information 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