

Date: 03/06/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8768

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – THROMBOSIS VITT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to thrombosis within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- For this health board, I would like to know how many thrombosis cases were diagnosed in:
 - For - men and women.
 - In age ranges
 - Age 30-40
 - Age 40-50
 - Age 50-60
 - Age 60-70

 - In...2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- How many in each group had a confirmed cause as being VITT? (Vaccine induced)
- How have not had this confirmed as their cause but suspected VITT involvement?

Answer:

We have exact numbers for the VITT question, but we do not have a VTE registry in Lothian and DVT and PE are diagnosed across a range of clinical areas. Further, your request simply says “thrombosis” so this could extend to a number of different types of clot (arguably including myocardial infarction & stroke) . This level of detail is not held in a centrally extractable format.

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.

Regarding VITT numbers, I am going to assume that the query relates to venous thrombosis of any kind (including CVST and portal vein thrombosis, which were the main clots seen with VITT but are not usually what would be referred to when discussing DVT and PE) and ignore cases with only arterial thrombus and DIC, plus we managed cases for surrounding health boards but I have not included these. Finally, there were cases not in the age range requested, so I have not included these either:

All VITT diagnoses were made in 2021 (no cases / probable cases for the other years)

Confirmed VITT meeting the above criteria:

40-50: 5<

50-60: 5<

Total: 5<

Possible VITT meeting the above criteria:

50-60: 5<

60-70: 5<

Total: 5<

It's important to note that they say VITT and then in brackets vaccine associated. VITT was an ultra-rare syndrome with a strict definition and is not interchangeable with vaccine associated VTE.

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