

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TREATMENT OF PATIENTS FROM OUT OF AREA

I write in response to your request for information in relation to treatment of patients from out of area in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many other health boards refer patients to NHS Lothian for treatment at The Western General Hospital? Please list the other health boards who have referred patients in each of the last three years to 31 March 2024.
2. What were the amounts of money paid by other health boards to NHS Lothian for treating patients outwith their area at The Western General Hospital for each of the three years to 31 March 2024?

Answer:

NHS Lothian's Service Level Agreements with other health boards cover all NHS Lothian's acute sites and are not divided by individual hospital. The financial values by health board for treating patients in NHS Lothian are detailed in the table below:

Payments to NHS Lothian under Service Level Agreements with other Health Boards			
Board	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	£1,412,813	£1,507,471	£1,149,993
NHS Borders	£21,884,775	£23,351,055	£23,461,231
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	£7,821,101	£8,345,114	£8,634,736
NHS Fife	£28,168,066	£30,055,327	£31,868,935
NHS Forth Valley	£12,012,763	£12,817,618	£13,172,266
NHS Grampian	£2,798,859	£2,986,382	£2,466,613
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	£3,300,227	£3,521,342	£3,474,592
NHS Highland	£4,278,700	£4,565,373	£5,002,904
NHS Lanarkshire	£4,990,466	£5,324,827	£5,042,647
NHS Orkney	£132,869	£141,771	£144,761
NHS Shetland	£123,611	£131,893	£140,525
NHS Tayside	£9,180,666	£9,795,770	£9,767,278
NHS Western Isles	£177,557	£189,454	£221,844
Total	£96,282,472	£102,733,398	£104,548,323

There are also some costs for treating patients out of area which fall outwith the Service Level Agreements. The cost for patients treated at the Western General Hospital per Board or Trust in each of the last three years is detailed in the attached spreadsheet. These costs are for treatments which are not included in the Service Level Agreements because the activity is not routine or is new and where activity varies substantially between years, or for treatment of patients from health boards in England, Wales and Northern Ireland where we do not have a Service Level Agreement due to variation in activity rates. Many of the patients treated from health boards outwith Scotland will have been emergency treatment while visiting the area.

Question:

3. How many patients from other health boards were treated at The Western General Hospital in the three years outlined above?

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. As some patients may have had more than one outpatient appointment or inpatient admission, the number of patients is given as well as the number of appointments or admissions.

Non Lothian Residents treated at the Western General Hospital, NHS Lothian				
Year	Number of outpatients	Number of outpatient appointments	Number of inpatients	Number of inpatient admissions
2021-22	8,127	17,423	1,856	4,371
2022-23	8,317	17,486	1,905	4,638
2023-24	8,439	17,962	2,035	4,751

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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive

Western General Hospital activity outside the SLAs

Health Board	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Ayrshire & Arran	144,887	143,936	124,369
Borders	2,715,689	2,017,884	1,926,744
Dumfries & Galloway	1,015,965	866,440	1,200,547
Fife	5,136,962	4,977,352	5,469,929
Forth Valley	1,887,232	1,595,075	2,074,258
Grampian	71,881	60,922	155,490
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	274,921	278,066	208,625
Highland	407,630	499,433	312,990
Lanarkshire	574,081	493,705	812,978
Shetland	9,199	9,471	9,659
Tayside	429,090	562,656	646,357
Western Isles	58,963	0	20,045
Scottish Total	12,726,500	11,504,941	12,961,991
NHS Basildon and Brentwood CCG	0	2,026	0
NHS Bath, North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB	0	0	15,000
NHS Brent CCG	238	0	0
NHS Bristol CCG	6,656	0	0
NHS Bristol, North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB	0	0	5,875
NHS Calderdale CCG	0	23,819	0
NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB	0	0	3,475
NHS Chiltern CCG	20	0	0
NHS Cumbria CCG	14,960	0	0
NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB	0	0	1,094
NHS Dorset CCG	0	490	0
NHS East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG	0	783	0
NHS East Riding of Yorkshire CCG	0	5,106	0
NHS England	0	219	126,445
NHS England CCG	0	191	0
NHS Frimley CCG	0	60	0
NHS Frimley ICB	0	0	97
NHS Gloucestershire CCG	1,417	0	0
NHS Greenwich CCG	7,503	0	0
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB	0	0	3,532
NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG	0	4,500	0
NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB	0	0	2,118
NHS High Weald Lewes Havens CCG	721	1,341	0
NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB	0	0	1,548
NHS Lambeth CCG	6,284	6,626	0
NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB	763	531	0
NHS Leeds CCG	0	4,505	0
NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICB	0	917	2,064
NHS Lincolnshire ICB	0	0	1,423
NHS Liverpool CCG	1,374	0	0
NHS Manchester CCG	3,787	0	0
NHS Morecambe Bay CCG	115	0	0
NHS Nene CCG	3,036	0	0
NHS Newark & Sherwood CCG	0	1,500	0
NHS North Central London CCG	532	0	0
NHS North Derbyshire CCG	0	878	0
NHS North Durham CCG	8,085	0	0

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB	5,883	12,392	1,006
NHS North East London CCG	6,782	979	0
NHS North West London CCG	915	1,373	0
NHS North West London ICB	0	0	5,262
NHS Northamptonshire ICB	0	0	6,102
NHS Northumberland CCG	37,329	87,654	0
NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire CCG	0	1,500	0
NHS Somerset ICB	0	0	1,208
NHS South East London CCG	27	14	0
NHS South East London ICB	0	0	13,809
NHS South Gloucestershire CCG	5,062	2,938	0
NHS South West Lincolnshire CCG	2,746	1,983	0
NHS South West London ICB	0	0	278
NHS Southwark CCG	4,858	5,316	0
NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB	0	0	471
NHS Sunderland CCG	3,269	3,269	0
NHS Tees Valley CCG	0	1,500	0
NHS Trafford CCG	0	4,934	0
NHS Wandsworth CCG	1,500	0	0
NHS West Hampshire CCG	0	883	0
NHS West Yorkshire ICB	0	2,250	2,255
Northern Ireland HSCB	5,313	759	0
Rest of UK Total	129,172	181,237	193,063
Grand Total	12,855,672	11,686,178	13,155,054