

Date 26/03/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9803

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL SEPSIS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dental sepsis.

Question:

- The number of cases of dental sepsis that have been treated at the health board's Accident and Emergency - broken down by A&E unit.

Answer:

Calendar year	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	St John's Hospital	Western General Hospital	Royal Hospital for Sick Children / Royal Hospital for Children & Young People
2015	5<	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	5<	0	5<	0
2018	8	5<	0	10
2019	8	6	0	7
2020	6	5<	5<	7
2021	5<	13	5<	11
2022	14	13	5<	11
2023	22	11	5<	17
2024	13	5<	0	5<
2025 (to date)	5<	0	0	0
SITE TOTAL	82	51	11	*

Question:

- The health board's policy for when a patient arrives in Accident and Emergency with dental sepsis.

Answer:

I am advised that we do not have a specific policy for sepsis within A&E. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise we do not hold this.

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board





To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018). *For the same reason we have not provided combined figures.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive