

Date 09/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9823

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ASTLEY AINSLIE HOSPITAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Astley Ainslie Hospital (AAH).

Question:

1. When did discussions about relocating patients start?

Answer:

In April 2024, the management of Astley Ainslie Hospital was transferred to the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership. Since then, an assessment of inpatient and outpatient services, as well as the overall infrastructure, has been conducted and presented to the NHS Lothian Corporate Management Team. The findings highlight ongoing environmental and operational challenges at the AAH site, posing risks to both patient and staff safety. As a result, it has been recommended that, as a matter of business continuity, urgent consideration be given to exploring off-site service options for inpatient care.

Question:

2. Who within NHS Lothian knew about this relocation?

Answer:

Discussions regarding the relocation of AAH inpatients services are ongoing. The AAH site is an NHS Lothian hosted service, managed by East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership. The teams involved, and aware of the relocation proposal include:

- East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership's senior executive team
- Operational and clinical service leads at the AAH
- NHS Lothian's Corporate Management Team
- Staff at the AAH and across ELHSCP were advised of the relocation proposal in January 2025.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Other Health and Social Care Partnerships

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



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