

Date 03/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9839

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – RESPIRATORY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to respiratory referrals.

Question:

- A copy of the guidelines for GPs to refer patients with suspected ILD to specialist respiratory services.

Answer:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/respiratory/interstitiallungdisease/>

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.

Question:

- A copy of your board's ILD diagnosis pathway.

Answer:

See refhelp link above

Question:

- Information about ILD MDT meetings held by clinicians in your Board areas, including:

Answer:

- Which professionals attend ILD MDT meetings. Respiratory physicians/Chest radiologists with interest in ILD/Respiratory pathologist (if required)/ research nurses. Ongoing dialogue in regards to inclusion of ILD RNS to ensure seamless management of ILD pathway
- The schedule for holding of ILD MDT meetings. Every Monday afternoon after clinic plus regional/complex/biopsy MDT every 3 months
- The number of patients considered at each ILD MDT meeting. 5< to10

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

- The number of patients marked “suspected ILD” who have been referred to an ILD MDT in each of the past three years. 300/320/340 referrals 2022/3/4 of whom 30% get to MDT

Question:

- The number of the following healthcare professionals currently working in the health board, and the site where they are based:

Answer:

- medical consultants and registrars with stated specialism in ILD (including but not limited to radiology and respiratory) - 7 Consultants
- ILD specialist nurses - 2
- ILD specialist pharmacists - 0
- ILD specialist physiotherapists – 0

Question:

- The number of antifibrotic prescriptions initiated for patients living in your NHS board areas in each of the last three years:

Answer:

Unfortunately, this is not information that is readily available or currently collected due to the lack of electronic prescribing in outpatients. The systems used do not align prescription initiation by year.

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.

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
Cc: Chief Executive