

Date 10/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9866

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ECT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ECTs and patients under 18.

### Question:

1. How many patients under the age of 18-years-old have received Electroconvulsive therapy in the past ten years, could you please provide this in a breakdown of financial years?
2. Could you please provide the total number of Electroconvulsive therapy session were used for under 18s in the past ten years, could you please provide this in a breakdown of financial years? To clarify, by session I am referring to each time ECT was used not the number of blocks.
3. What is the total number of adverse events recorded on DATIX as a result of ECT in under 18s in the past 10 years. Can you please provide this in a breakdown of the past ten financial years?

### Answer:

I am advised that the requested information is not held in a centrally extractable format and we would need to look through all patient files involving ECT to identify the individuals age. 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 am sorry I cannot help further 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

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Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common  
name of Lothian Health Board*

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](http://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