

Date 16/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9884

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ILLNESS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to illnesses within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many cases of rickets were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
  - a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where rickets was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
2. How many cases of tuberculosis were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
  - a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where tuberculosis was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
3. How many cases of scurvy were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
  - a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where scurvy was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
4. How many cases of malnutrition were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
  - a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where malnutrition was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
5. How many cases of scarlet fever were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).

Headquarters  
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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*

- a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where scarlet fever was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
6. How many cases of syphilis were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
- a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where syphilis was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
7. How many cases of scabies were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
- a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where scabies was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.
8. How many cases of whooping cough were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
- a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where whooping cough was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years
9. How many cases of measles were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).
- a. How many of these cases were children (under 18)?
  - b. Please provide the number of death certificates where measles was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years

Answer:

See enclosed spreadsheet.

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).

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](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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive  
Enc.

FOI: FOI9884

**Request:** How many cases of [rickets/tuberculosis/scurvy/malnutrition/scarlet fever/syphilis/scabies/whooping cough/measles] were reported between 2014 and 2024 (please break down by year).  
How many of these cases were children (under 18)?  
Please provide the number of death certificates where [rickets/tuberculosis/scurvy/malnutrition/scarlet fever/syphilis/scabies/whooping cough/measles] was listed as an underlying cause or a contributory factor in the last 10 years.

**Source:** Hospital admission data = NHS Lothian TRAK  
Deaths data = National Records of Scotland death data  
**Please note that this analysis comes from LIVE Systems - if this analysis were to be re-run at a later date the figures may be subject to change.**

**Date Extracted:** 24/03/2025

**Response:** **Please see notes and definitions below when interpreting the figures.**

Table 1: Number of inpatient hospital admissions, by year

	ICD10 codes <sup>5</sup>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 <sup>3</sup>
Rickets	E550	0	0	5<	5<	5<	5<	0	5<	5<	0	5<
Tuberculosis	A15-A19	66	66	58	48	54	28	34	43	30	37	39
Scurvy	E54	5<	0	0	5<	0	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
Malnutrition	E40-E46	98	63	72	79	86	78	92	67	69	77	91
Scarlet fever	A38	10	8	16	12	13	11	10	5<	38	8	7
Syphilis	A50-A53	5<	5<	6	12	10	9	7	5<	5<	6	9
Scabies	B86	9	9	5<	26	60	22	15	13	26	22	22
Whooping cough	A37	5<	12	8	9	5<	14	5<	0	0	5<	44
Measles	B05	5<	5<	5<	5<	0	5<	5<	0	0	0	5<

Table 2: Number of inpatient hospital admissions where the person was younger than 18, by year

	ICD10 codes <sup>5</sup>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 <sup>3</sup>
Rickets	E550	0	0	5<	5<	5<	5<	0	5<	5<	0	5<
Tuberculosis	A15-A19	10	5<	0	12	10	0	5<	5<	0	5<	5<
Scurvy	E54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5<	0	5<	5<
Malnutrition	E40-E46	0	0	5<	0	5<	5<	5<	0	5	5<	5<
Scarlet fever	A38	9	8	16	12	12	10	10	5<	38	8	7
Syphilis	A50-A53	5<	0	5<	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scabies	B86	5<	5<	0	6	8	0	5<	5<	6	5<	5<
Whooping cough	A37	5<	12	6	9	5<	14	5<	0	0	5<	24
Measles	B05	0	5<	5<	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5<

- Table 1 & 2 notes:**
1. The source of the hospital inpatient data in Table 1 and Table 2 is NHS Lothian TRAK. This is a live system - if this analysis were to be re-run at a later date the figures may be subject to change.
  2. The Analytical Team does not hold readily available data on the number of patients diagnosed with a given medical condition. We have therefore provided the number of inpatient hospital admissions where a condition was mentioned in the hospital discharge notes. The condition might not be the main reason for admission. Please also be aware that patients with these conditions that have not been hospitalised in Lothian will not appear in our reported numbers.
  3. Please note that we have a data lag of 3 months from hospital discharge date due to coding and data processing times, so these numbers will only reflect inpatients discharged more than approximately 12 weeks ago. The figures for 2024 are therefore slightly incomplete.
  4. Counts are for hospital admissions rather than people.
  5. Each condition has been defined using the ICD10 codes listed in the table. Please see the World Health Organisation's website for information on what each code corresponds to.

Table 3: Number of deaths, by year

	ICD10 codes <sup>5</sup>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 <sup>7</sup>
Rickets	E550	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	A15-A19	5<	5<	5<	5<	9	5<	5<	5<	0	5<	5<
Scurvy	E54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malnutrition	E40-E46	16	13	17	15	18	11	19	14	21	6	11
Scarlet fever	A38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis	A50-A53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5<	0
Scabies	B86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough	A37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	B05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- Table 3 notes:**
6. The source of the deaths data in Table 3 is National Records of Scotland.
  7. Data for 2024 is currently provisional and figures may be subject to change.
  8. Each condition has been defined using the ICD10 codes listed in the table. Please see the World Health Organisation's website for information on what each code corresponds to.
  9. Note that the condition/IC10 code may have been only a contributory factor and not the underlying cause of death. Counts include deaths where one of the ICD10 codes was listed as a cause of death, including secondary causes, and regardless of whether it was the underlying cause of death.
  10. Counts include deaths where the usual place of residence of the deceased was in NHS Lothian.