

Date 18/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9903

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PRIVATE SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to private surgery.

Question:

1. Please outline how many times in the last five years (since March 2020) that you have been contacted by a patient who has received private surgery while on the waiting list for elective surgery via your health board and who has requested your health board subsequently contribute towards the cost of the private surgery.

Answer:

We have no record of any such contact during the period requested. The NHS in Scotland does not reimburse patients' costs should they opt to have private healthcare.

Question:

2. Out of these claims, please outline how many times your health board has agreed to compensate for the surgery and how many it has refused.

Answer:

See response to question 1.

Question:

3. Please also provide a summary of what the elective surgery was for.

Answer:

See response to question 1.

Question:

4. Please also outline how many times since March 2020, where the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman has found that your health board should calculate and reimburse a patient who has received private surgery while awaiting NHS surgery.

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*

Answer:

See response to question 1.

Question:

5. Please supply a financial figure as to how much money in total your health board has paid directly to patients who have received private surgery while awaiting elective surgery via your health board since March 2020.

Answer:

Not applicable. See response to question 1.

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