

Date: 16/05/2025
Our Ref: 10010
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to social prescribing in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Within your health board could you specify the name and location of each of your emergency departments, minor injury units, walk in centres and urgent treatment centres.

Answer:

Emergency Department, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Emergency Department, St John's Hospital, Livingston
Emergency Department, Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
Minor Injury Unit, Western General Hospital

Question:

For each of your individual Emergency Departments, Walk in Centres, Minor Injury Units or Urgent Treatment centre could you please answer the following questions:

2. Which of the following options best describes the social prescribing provision in your Emergency Department, Walk-In-Centre, Minor Injuries Unit or Urgent Treatment Centre?
 1. We have an active social prescribing service
 2. We previously had a social prescribing service, but it is not active currently
 3. We are currently developing a social prescribing service
 4. We have never had a social prescribing service

Answer:

NHS Lothian has never had a social prescribing service in any of the departments specified.

Questions:

3. What date did your social prescribing service start?
4. What date did your social prescribing service end?
5. Which of the following factors does/did your social prescribing service support with?

1. Housing and homelessness
2. Violence reduction
3. Alcohol and drugs
4. Social isolation and loneliness
1. Mental health
2. Severe and multiple disadvantage
3. High intensity/ high frequency service use
4. Employment and training
5. Youth specific interventions
6. Early years interventions
7. Domestic abuse
8. Independent living
9. Other – please could you tell us

6. How many patients are/were referred to your social prescribing service on average each month?

7. How is/was your social prescribing service funded?

8. How many social prescribers (Whole Time Equivalent) are employed in your emergency department?

Answer:

N/A.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive