

Date 12/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10019

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - HOMEOPATHY SERVICES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to homeopathy services.

Question:

1. How much money did the NHS spend on providing the following services in the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 to date:

Answer:

- a. Homeopathy – £0 – see note below
- b. Reiki - £0
- c. Energy Therapy - £0
- d. Chakra Balancing - £0
- e. Emotional Freedom Techniques - £0
- f. Acupuncture - £0

NHS Lothian took the decision on 26th June 2013 to cease providing NHS Lothian homeopathy services as from 1st April 2014. At the same time, GPs were asked to cease any out-of-area referrals to Glasgow Centre for Integrative Care (GCIC) (formerly known as Glasgow Homeopathy Hospital). There was an arrangement put in place whereby GPs could request referral to GCIC for homeopathy on an exceptional basis via the NHS Lothian Safe Haven office for out-of-area referrals. During the years 2022 – 2025 there have been no such requests.

The other therapies listed above are not ones which NHS Lothian funds.

Question:

2. How many homeopathic products were prescribed by GPs and other doctors working for or under contract to the NHS in the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 to date.

Answer:

Please see the amount spent on homeopathic products in Lothian between 2022 – 2025:

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

- 2022 - £523 spend (66 items prescribed)
- 2023 - £185 spend (19 items prescribed)
- 2024 - no items prescribed
- 2025 - £5 spend (1 item prescribed) – please note data is only available for January 2025.

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