

Date: 07/05/2025
Our Ref: 9820
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MATERNITY UNIT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to NHS Lothian's Maternity units.

Question:

1. When was the last time your health board maternity ward/unit was updated or refurbished?

Answer:

There has not been a full refurbishment of the maternity unit at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh since it opened in 2003. Redecoration and smaller updates are completed as required.

The labour ward at St John's Hospital was refurbished and upgraded in 2015.

Question:

2. Does every birthing suite have an ensuite toilet and shower facility?

Answer:

All birthing suites have ensuite toilet facilities, but some labour ward rooms have a bath rather than a shower.

Question:

3. Does every postnatal suite have an ensuite toilet and shower facility?

Answer:

All postnatal suites have ensuite toilets, but some single rooms have a bath rather than a shower.

Question:

4. Does every multi-bed room/bay have an ensuite toilet and shower facility?

Answer:

No, the 3 bed HDU room in the labour ward at the Royal Infirmary does not have ensuite toilet or shower facilities.

Question:

5. What is the furthest distance someone must walk to get from their bed to a toilet and shower within the maternity ward?

Answer:

The furthest distance is 7 metres.

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