

Date 21/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9919

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LEUKAEMIA PATIENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to leukaemia patients.

Question:

Support Workers:

1. Do you provide cancer support workers, or similar roles (e.g., navigators, cancer care co-ordinators) to your haemato-oncology patients?
 - o If yes: a. How many do you employ, and what is the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)?
 - b. What is their average caseload?
 - c. How many are employed by a third party (e.g., charity), and what is the FTE?
 - d. What is their caseload?
2. What percentage of your leukaemia patients have accessed their services?

Answer:

1.	Not a specific role in haematology, a lot of the cancer support comes from the CNS team.
2.	Not known

Question:

Counselling Services:

3. Do you provide counselling or psychological support for leukaemia patients through:
 1. Mental health professionals?
 2. Digital platforms (e.g., apps)?
 3. Any other relevant services?
4. How many staff do you employ to provide cancer emotional support, and what is the FTE?
5. What are:
 1. The average,
 2. The minimum, and
 3. The maximum waiting times from referral to first appointment or first access point for emotional support services?

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
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name of Lothian Health Board*

6. How do patients get referred to these services (e.g., clinical nurse specialist, GP, self-referral)?
7. Are there any limits on the number of sessions or amount of time cancer patients can access counselling?
8. What percentage of all cancer patients you care for access emotional support in-house?
9. What percentage of leukaemia patients you care for access emotional support?

Answer:

3.	1. Yes 2. No 3. No
4.	Cannot confirm number of staff are employed whose role is solely to provide emotional support to patients although the CNS team will provide this as part of the many other responsibilities they have
5.	Not applicable
6.	Via signposting from SPOC and CNS
7.	Depends on need
8.	Not applicable
9.	We do not hold these figures

Question:

Welfare Support:

10. Do you offer welfare advice or practical support (e.g., benefits, financial help, transport) to:
 1. All cancer patients?
 2. Leukaemia patients?
11. How do patients access this support, and how is the information shared with them?
12. How many staff and FTE staff are responsible for delivering welfare support services?
13. How many leukaemia patients accessed welfare support in the past 12 months? What percentage of the total leukaemia patients you care for does this represent?

Answer:

10.	We signpost, but we do not provide as not our function.
11.	Via signposting from SPOC/CNS
12.	Not applicable
13.	We do not hold this information.

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