

Date 12/05/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9947

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SAERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Significant Adverse Event Review (SAERs).

### Question:

- Please can I have a copy of all final Significant Adverse Event Review (SAERs) reports produced for SAERs commissioned by your health board in each of the last four full financial years which relate to stillbirth, neonatal, extended perinatal, post- neonatal and infant deaths. Please redact all personal information from the reports.

### Answer:

Due to the very small numbers of reports (evidenced in response 9946) and the specific and identifiable nature of them, it is not possible to release any of the reports even in a redacted format.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in this response. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Reports still being review cannot be released under Section 30 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs.

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act-

(b) would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially-

(i) the free and frank provision of advice; or

(ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation; or

(c) would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

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*

In NHS Lothian, all events where a person is harmed or there was potential for harm are recorded on DATIX. NHS Lothian classify Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) as those resulting in a severity of Major Harm\* or Death. All SAEs are reviewed for learning and an improvement plan put in place and implemented if relevant. An improvement plan is not always required as the findings of the review do not always identify any care of service delivery problems. Conversely, an improvement plan may include actions to address issues which are not directly related to the event but have been identified during the review as opportunities for service improvement.

\* Major Harm defined as – Intervention required to sustain life / long term incapacity or disability requiring medical treatment and/or counselling (e.g., All fractures with exception of fingers and toes)

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](http://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