

Date 12/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9984

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MRI SCANNERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to MRI scanners.

Question:

1. How many MRI scanners does the NHS in Scotland have?
2. How many are suitable for Patients with a high BMI and are obese and cannot fit in an MRI scanner?
3. How many MRI scanners does Lothian NHS have?
4. How many are suitable (in Lothian NHS) for obese patients with a high BMI?
5. How many patients, who are deemed obese, and cannot fit in an MRI scanner, have been sent to a private institution, such as SPIRE, to have an MRI scan?
6. How many obese patients, who cannot fit in the MRI scanner at the ERI, has the Department of General Surgery sent to either a private institution or to the zoo (any zoo) where the MRI scanners are apparently able to scan larger patients and animals?

Answer:

1.	This is not something I can answer – We would only hold information for NHS Lothian. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise we do not hold this.
2.	Most scanners are larger bore nowadays, but again we cannot comment for NHS in Scotland as a whole.
3.	8
4.	All the scanners in Lothian are 70cm bore(large bore), there are very few who cannot fit.
5.	Spire do not have a larger bore scanner so none.
6.	This is a myth and Edinburgh zoo do not have an MRI scanner and the Vet school images animals only. If a patient can not fit in an MRI scanner in Lothian, there is no further pathway.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

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*

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