

Date 28/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9987

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MIXED-SEX WARDS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mixed-sex wards.

### Question:

- Does your health board have a policy on mixed-sex wards, and if so, when was it implemented?
- Which specific wards does this policy apply to (e.g., outpatient endoscopy, surgical, or medical wards)?
- Could you provide a copy of your health board's policy on mixed-sex wards?

### Answer:

I am advised by the NHS Lothian Policy Hub that there is currently no policy in relation mixed sex wards within NHS Lothian.

Scottish Government Health Department (2008), CEL 48; Provision of Single Room Accommodation and Bed Spacing:-

[https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008\\_48.pdf](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008_48.pdf)

Information in relation to mixed wards locations and numbers is however available via previous responses which can be accessed via the following:-

<https://org.nhslothian.scot/foi/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2024/07/8855.pdf>

Please note that while these are wards they have designated single sex 4 and 6 bedded bays within each ward.

This information is exempt under **Section 25** of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

Headquarters  
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102 West Port  
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*

I hope the publicly available information 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