

Date 06/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9988

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SAME-SEX CARE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to same-sex care.

Question:

- What is the current policy in your health board area for patients to request same-sex care, particularly in situations involving intimate examinations or procedures? Are patients able to request same-sex care from their GP or healthcare professional (same biological sex), particularly when they are undergoing intimate exams?
- When was this policy first enforced in your health board?
- Can you provide a copy of this policy.

Answer:

I am advised we do not have a policy specific to same-sex care. We do make every effort to accommodate these requests and in most cases are able to do that.

The Chaperoning Policy, section on 'Intimate Care' on page 8. The policy is currently being updated. Please see links below:-

https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/policy_page/chaperoning-policy/

<https://policyonline.nhslothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Chaperoning%20Policy.pdf>

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.

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

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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

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