

Date 07/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9994

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - FORAGING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to foraging.

Question:

- I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding cases of food poisoning due to incorrect identification or inappropriate preparation of wild food.

Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 April 2020 and the most recent date for which data is available.

Please could you provide the following:

- A yearly breakdown of the number of cases of food poisoning due to incorrect identification or inappropriate preparation of wild food.
- The type of wild food that caused the food poisoning (for example: fungi, plant, berries, etc...). Please include the specific species if known.
- The symptoms experienced by the patient and the recovery time (for example: overnight stay or discharged within a couple hours)
- The location where this food was picked.

Answer:

I must advise that we would be unable to accurately determine if the food had been incorrectly identified and/or prepared.

The information you have requested is not held in a centrally extractable format. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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

I am sorry I cannot help 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