

Date 12/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10027

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - SHARED CARE AGREEMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to shared care agreements.

Question:

- d. Is Loanhead Medical Practice's refusal to enter into a shared care agreement with Diverse Diagnostics a matter of Practice policy?

Answer:

This request should be directed to Loanhead Medical Practice as they are an independent contractor and responsible for delaying with their own FOI(S)A responses. The information is not held by NHS Lothian. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

Question:

- e. Is Loanhead Medical Practice's refusal to enter into a shared care agreement with Diverse Diagnostics a matter of NHS Lothian policy?

Answer:

NHS Lothian has shared care agreements for some of the drugs used to treat ADHD in children and young people over 6 and adults. These agreements are between NHS Lothian specialist services and GP practices in Lothian. These agreements are designed to support GPs and specialist teams in providing safe and accessible care for patients. The agreements details what part of the care should be provided by specialist/hospital consultant teams and which parts are the responsibility of the General Practitioner and their team and are agreed by representatives of the specialist service, GPs, and pharmacists.

Shared care agreements are made under the procedure for the shared care of medicines which is authorised by the Health Board's Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

There are no similar agreements between GP practices and private providers. As independent contractors GP practices can choose to share care with private providers but there is no

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
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requirement to do so. If a practice chooses to share care with a private provider, they will normally require the private provider to provide the same level of specialist input as the NHS specialist services; in other words, to follow the NHS Lothian shared care agreement.

Question:

- f. Is Loanhead Medical Practice's refusal to enter into a shared care agreement with Diverse Diagnostics a matter of NHS Scotland policy?

Answer:

This request should be directed to the Scottish Government who are responsible for NHS Scotland policy.

Question:

- g. I wish to know how many shared care agreements, for any condition or medication, are currently in place between Loanhead medical practice and private medical providers.

Answer:

This request should be directed to Loanhead Medical Practice as they are an independent contractor and responsible for delaying with their own FOI(S)A responses. Section 17 – Information not held.

Question:

- h. I wish to know how many of the agreements in the point above relate to provision of medication for ADHD?

Answer:

This request should be directed to Loanhead Medical Practice as they are an independent contractor and responsible for delaying with their own FOI(S)A responses. Section 17 – information not held

Question:

- i. I wish to know how many shared care agreements for ADHD medication exist between private providers and all NHS Lothian GP Practices, broken down into number of agreements per practice.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold this information as most GP practices are independent contractors and free to make their own decisions regarding the relationship they have with commercial medical providers.

Directly managed 2c GP practices comply with NHS Lothian shared care agreements.

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. 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