

Date 27/05/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10052

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mental health patients and religion.

### Question:

- The number of Muslim patients that have accessed mental healthcare services in NHS Lothian between 4th December 2023 to the present day?
- Current number of Muslim mental health out-patients in NHS Lothian, Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Associated Services?
- Current number of Muslim mental health in-patients in NHS Lothian, Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Associated Services?
- The number of NHS Lothian 'community mental health nurses' and 'ward based' mental health nurses currently employed at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital?

### Answer:

	MH Outpatient Referrals*	MH Inpatient Admissions*	Current MH Inpatients**	Current MH outpatients**
Total patients	72,918	2,686	544	29,184
Number of pts. with "Islam" recorded as Religion	557	45	10	243
% of Total patients where religion recorded as "Islam"	0.8%	1.7%	1.8%	0.8%
% of Total pts. Where religion recorded as "unknown" or not completed	56.8%	49.9%	50.2%	53.9%

\*Referrals and Inpatient admissions are from 04/12/2024 to 23/05/2025

\*\*Current Inpatients & Current outpatient figures were extracted from the Patient Information system on 26/05/2025. Any current outpatients with no attended appointment since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 were excluded from the report.

Headquarters  
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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

**Notes on the data:**

- The FOI has been answered using the recorded Religion in the electronic patient information system. Any patient with a religion recorded as “Islam” has been assumed to be Muslim. The numbers are detailed in the table below.
- The patient’s religion is poorly recorded in the electronic system and the number of Muslim patients is likely under reported.

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](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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive