

Date 06/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10079

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - SAER

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Serious Adverse Event Reports (SAER).

Question:

- I have searched the websites of the 14 Scottish territorial health boards for information pertaining to copies of Serious Adverse Event Reports/Critical Incident Reports (SAER/CIR) and Learning Summaries/Information pertaining to staff learning from SAER/CIR's and cannot find this information.

Scottish health boards were instructed historically that they must publish learning from SAER/CIR events and make this publicly available on their websites. It is your moral and legal duty. **Yet I cannot find this information.**

Under FOISA can you please send me the links on your websites that will easily take me to this information.

Answer:

We are not able to publish individual Serious Adverse Event reports and Learning Summaries, as these contain information about specific cases which could lead to the identification of the patients involved. However, SAERs are shared directly with patients and/or their families.

The information is regarded as exempt under Section 38(1)(b)(d) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – personal information.

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

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*

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