

Date 06/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10081

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OVERSEAS VISITORS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to overseas visitors.

Question:

Please provide the following for the most recent **five financial years**, or if not available, for the **three financial years up to and including 2023–24**:

- The total cost incurred by your NHS board for the treatment of chargeable overseas visitors.
- The total amount billed to chargeable overseas visitors during the same periods.
- The amount successfully recovered from chargeable overseas visitors for treatment costs.
- The amount of unpaid charges owed by chargeable overseas visitors as of the end of each financial year.

Answer:

	Number of Patients	Value of invoices raised	Number of Patients with outstanding debt	Outstanding debt	Amount written off	Write off as a % of invoices raised
2019/20	185	£848,626.09	5<	£77,140.00	£147,032.24	17.3%
2020/21	74	£279,788.12	5<	£78,995.00	£88,341.12	31.6%
2021/22	77	£378,704.80	9	£127,404.52	£91,874.62	24.3%
2022/23	148	£739,197.85	11	£94,036.44	£98,948.18	13.4%
2023/24	231	£1,373,457.31	35	£430,167.61	£45,110.06	3.3%
2024/25	234	£1,867,258.98	101	£999,188.94	£458.00	0.0%

Question:

- The **highest individual charge** levied on a chargeable overseas visitor in each year;
- A brief description of the **treatment or service** provided;
- The **nationality** of the patient (if held);
- Whether the charge was **paid in full, partially paid, or unpaid**.

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

Answer:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
a.	£40-50,000	£35-45,000	£40,-50,000	£120-130,000	£80-90,000
b.	Intensive Therapy / Neurosurgery / General Surgery / Cardiology				
c.	They were American, Bangladeshi, Japanese, Russian				
d.	Paid in Full	Unpaid	Paid in Full	Unpaid	Paid in Full

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018). For the same reason we have provided ranges and merged data.

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