

Date 06/06/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10083

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - D&V OUTBREAKS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to D&V outbreaks.

### Question:

- The number of D&V outbreaks that have been declared at Royal Hospital for Sick Kids, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh at Little France, and Western General Hospital in Edinburgh and St John's Hospital in Livingston since 1 January 2020.

### Answer:

I am advised that the information you have requested is not held in a centrally extractable format

In order to answer your request we would have to carry out a manual search of individual patient records held. We are unable to provide a precise number of D&V outbreaks that have been declared at Royal Hospital for Sick Kids, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh at Little France, and Western General Hospital in Edinburgh and St John's Hospital in Livingston since 1 January 2020.

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.

Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (Scotland) ARHAI circulated a survey to all NHS Scotland boards in May 2024 to review existing national norovirus reporting methods and considering options for alignment with all other organisms/incidents via the outbreak reporting tool.

It was recognised that there was (and is) variation in the way in which each NHS Board reports norovirus incidents to ARHAI Scotland and the triggers to indicate reporting. Data from Board returns up to and including 2024 are not collated, analysed or published by ARHAI.

The revised norovirus reporting requirements for NHS Scotland have not yet been issued. NHS Lothian does not currently submit a weekly summary of suspected or confirmed hospital norovirus outbreaks to ARHAI.

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

Yours sincerely

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