

Date 06/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10088

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) waits

Question:

For each year from 2014 onwards, including so far in 2025, please provide:

1. The number of people who received a referral for a first appointment

Answer:

Available on website from 2015/16 onwards - unable to reliably pull the data for 2014/15
[Gender Identity Clinic Data | Lothian Sexual Health](#). Data for 2024/25 is not yet available.

Question:

2. The number of people who were offered a first appointment

Answer:

Available on website from 2015/16 onwards - unable to reliably pull the data for 2014/15
[Gender Identity Clinic Data | Lothian Sexual Health](#)

Question:

3. The average (mean) wait in weeks for a first appointment

Answer:

Available on website in days from 2016-2023, an update has been requested - unable to reliably pull the data for 2014/15. [Gender Identity Clinic Data | Lothian Sexual Health](#)

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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*

Question:

4. The number of people who received a first appointment within 18 weeks

Answer:

We do not have a way to reliably pull this data. 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.

Question:

5. Of those who received a first appointment that year, the longest someone had waited to receive it

Answer:

We do not have a way to reliably pull this data, as above

Question:

6. At the end of each year, the date people currently receiving a first appointment were originally referred

Answer:

We do not have a way to reliably pull this data, as above.

Question:

7. The number of people who received hormones that year as part of their gender identity healthcare

Answer:

This data are not routinely recorded outside of clinical records. 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.

Question:

8. Of those who received such hormones, the average length of time they had waited to receive it since their referral

Answer:

As above

Question:

9. The number of people who completed treatment that year

Answer:

This data is not recorded as hormone treatment doesn't have a 'completed' point, any patients on hormone treatment will be seen for annual or biannual reviews indefinitely. Similar to above any record of a patient stopping hormone treatment would be stored in clinical notes and not held in a way that we can pull the 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive