

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NURSING STAFF ABSENCE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to nursing staff absence in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

Please provide details of the number of days of nursing and midwifery staff time lost due to absence relating to mental ill health in 2024/25.

Please provide this data broken down by:

- (a) nursing staff days lost
- (b) midwifery staff days lost
- (c) overall total days

### Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. The absence reason category used is 'anxiety / stress / depression / other psychiatric illness'. As a working day can vary in length, the number of hours lost is also included as a more accurate representation.

Nursing and Midwifery staff absence due to mental health, NHS Lothian		
Staff group	Working days lost	Hours lost
Midwifery Band 1-4	815	8,299
Midwifery Band 5+	1,600	16,435
Nursing Band 1-4	15,289	142,900
Nursing Band 5+	23,196	218,299

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive