

Date 17/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10121

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - ROBOTIC SURGERIES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to robotic surgeries.

Question:

1. The total numbers of **Emergency general surgery** operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic. For robotic surgeries please can this be further broken down into the type of robot in use for each operation (e.g. include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand).

Answer:

Technique	Cases Performed
Laparoscopic	2,022
Open	4,638
Robotic	9

Question:

2. **Type and numbers of robot** available in your trust and used in emergency general surgery cases (Examples include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand, Soloassist, Microhand S, AESOP, Zeus).

Answer:

CMR and Di Vinci.

Question:

3. The total numbers of **Emergency general surgery** operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025 occurring during out of hours (weekends, nights)

Answer:

Technique	Cases Performed
Laparoscopic	851
Open	2,316

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

Question:

4. Number of **robotic general surgery** cases (both emergency and elective) performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025.

Answer:

Type	Cases Performed
Emergency	9
Scheduled	251

Question:

5. Number the following operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic (with robotic surgeries further broken down into type of robot used if applicable)
1. cholecystectomies
 2. laparotomies
 3. Laparoscopies
 4. appendectomies
 5. hernia repairs
 6. Hartmann's procedures
 7. Adhesiolysis
 8. Small bowel resection

Answer:

Technique	Cholecystectomy	Laparotomy	Laparoscopy	Appendectomy	Hernia Repair	Hartmann	Adhesiolysis	S.B. Resection
Laparoscopic	2,016	5	764	1,471	374	8	213	20
Open	266	189	2	185	1,925	127	350	251
Robotic	70	0	63	0	35	5<	13	5<

Question:

6. Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic.
1. cholecystectomies
 2. laparotomies
 3. Laparoscopies
 4. appendectomies
 5. hernia repairs
 6. Hartmann's procedures
 7. Adhesiolysis
 8. Small bowel resection

Answer:

MEAN length of stay (hours)								
Technique	Cholecystectomy	Laparotomy	Laparoscopy	Appendectomy	Hernia Repair	Hartmann	Adhesiolysis	S.B. Resection
Laparoscopic	43.3	151.9	29.1	68.7	32.3	271.9	58.3	221.4
Open	223.5	229.1	63.3	187.9	55.4	626.8	183.1	357.5
Robotic	25.7	NA	48	NA	67.4	178.2	69.8	260.7

MEDIAN length of stay (hours)								
Technique	Cholecystectomy	Laparotomy	Laparoscopy	Appendectomy	Hernia Repair	Hartmann	Adhesiolysis	S.B. Resection
Laparoscopic	27.4	31.4	11.6	48	24	281.7	32.7	117.3
Open	174.2	118	63.3	125.8	21.4	370.4	105.2	212.3
Robotic	14	NA	36.5	NA	33.3	178.2	36.1	260.7

Question:

7. The number and type of complications that occurred in robotic general surgery cases between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Including but not limited to conversions to another type of surgery, device-related complications, injury to surrounding structures or tissue, serums, infection, leakage, hernias, mortality.

Answer:

This level of detail is not held in a centrally extractable format as we would need to look at all case files involving robotic surgery to identify the specific issues. 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. Number of staff trained to assist with robotic cases.
 9. The average (Over 4 weeks) number of staff trained to assist in robotic surgery available out of hours (weekends/nights).

Answer:

Not known without extracting from individual staff 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 staff and training 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.

Notes:

1. General Surgery operations are defined here as those operations that were performed under the theatre session specialty of General Surgery or Colorectal Surgery, or those procedures performed under the theatre session specialty of NCEPOD which were also categorised as falling under the theatre case specialty of General Surgery or Colorectal Surgery.
2. The data refer to theatre cases performed between 01 January 2023 and 01 January 2025 (inclusive).
3. The surgical approach used was determined from clinical coding - see table below on OPCS codes used.
4. Some procedures were recorded as using an endoscopic approach. These procedures have been added to laparoscopic procedures.
5. OPCS codes were also used to categorise the specific procedures mentioned - see table below on OPCS codes used.
6. We cannot break down procedures by type of robot used since this is not recorded at the time of the operation and would require analysis of individual patient notes on a case by case basis.
7. *** NOTE: tables contain or refer to small numbers. ***
8. It is assumed that the requester would like to know the length of stay for each procedure only. However, many patients who undergo one of the specified procedures do so well into their hospital stay. Accordingly, to give a more representative answer for length of stay, only those patients who were admitted on the day of their surgery are considered. Even so, some of these patients may have had other ongoing health problems which led them to stay in hospital for longer than expected due to the procedure alone. The median length of stay is therefore also provided since this may be a more representative measure of length of stay due to the specified procedure alone.

OPCS codes used for specific procedures	
Procedure	OPCS Codes Used
Appendicectomy	H01, H02
Hernia Repair	T20, T21, T22, T23, T24, T25, T26, T27, T97, T98, G23
Cholecystectomy	J18
Adhesiolysis	T413, T423, T415, Y181, Q492
Small Bowel	G69, G70, G58, G59, G49, G50
Hartmann	H335
Laparotomy	T30
Laparoscopy	T43

OPCS codes used for surgical approach	
Procedure	OPCS Codes Used
Laparoscopic	Y751, Y752, J093, J519, T43, Y763, T423
Robotic	Y753, Y765, Y452, Y743
Open	Y714 and when none of above codes are used

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