

Date 25/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9938

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CERVICAL SCREENING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cervical screening.

Please note there have been known data quality issues with aggregate data published nationally for cervical screening which is currently being investigated. These issues may have affected the quoted numbers below which are drawn from national screening reporting systems.

Question:

- To ask, in the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, how many women in your health board area attended for cervical screening? Could this be broken down by year?

Answer:

The data shows numbers of women with cervical sample results. Each cervical sample result relates to an individual woman that has attended cervical screening. This data is available by financial year rather than calendar year as follows.

Samples	Total
01 Apr 2022 - 31 Mar 2023	60,136
01 Apr 2023 - 31 Mar 2024	49,028
01 Apr 2024 - 31 Mar 2025	31,750

Data source: Cancer Management, Outcomes, and Data (CMoD) Report – (Information Services Division) ISD 4_3: Number of samples processed annually, by financial year and by individual.

Question:

- In addition, how many cervical smear tests resulted in the patient requiring a further appointment or procedure? Could this be broken down by year?

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:

Women who have a positive HPV result and an abnormal cervical smear, or have a positive HPV result on a repeat smear, will be referred for a colposcopy appointment (a procedure to look at the cervix where a further sample may be taken). This data reports the number of referrals for a colposcopy appointment by calendar year as follows.

Referrals to Colposcopy	Total
2022	1,931
2023	2,301
2024	2,329

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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive