

Date 29/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9963

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TRAVEL EXPENCES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to travel expences.

Question:

1. How many Resident Doctors (also known as Doctors and Dentists in Training, previously known as Junior Doctors) for whom you are the lead employer claimed excess travel expenses in each of the 21-22, 22-23, 23-24 financial years?

Answer:

No Of Resident doctors claimed Travel Expenses	2021	2022	2023
Lothian	364	395	404
Fife	211	241	258
Borders	91	89	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>758</b>

Question:

2. How many total excess travel expense claims were filed in each of the 21-22, 22-23, 23-24 financial years?
3. What proportion of the above expense claims were claimed at the "Public Transport Rate" and what proportion were claimed at the "Standard Rate" (sometimes also known as the "Enhanced Rate") for each of the 21-22, 22-23, 23-24 financial years?
4. What proportion of the above expenses claimed at the "Public Transport Rate" exceeded 15 miles for a single journey from Home to Placement (including the 8 miles not claimable) - noted as field (A) in the standard form.

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*

Please include both the number of Resident Doctors who had a journey exceeding 15 miles, and also the total number of journeys where the travel exceeded 15 miles. Please include the above information for each of the 21-22, 22-23, 23-24 financial years.

Answer:

I am advised that we do not hold this information in a centrally extractable format, if at all. 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 finance ledgers 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. What was the total expenditure with regards to excess travel expenses for Resident Doctors for each of the 21-22, 22-23, 23-24 financial years?

Answer:

Total Cost regarding Travel Expenses	2021	2022	2023
Lothian	£190,813.87	£198,666.88	£198,526.67
Fife	£202,045.27	£255,873.31	£237,293.18
Borders	£101,823.32	£113,173.24	£104,641.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>£494,682.46</b>	<b>£567,713.43</b>	<b>£540,461.79</b>

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](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