

Date 18/07/2025
Our Ref 10037

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ENDOMETRIOSIS SURGERIES

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

Question:

1. How many surgeons do you currently employ in your regional board that specifically operate on women suffering from endometriosis?

Answer:

There are four surgeons.

Question:

2. How many of these surgeons work 5 days a week for your regional board?

Answer:

All four work five days a week.

Question:

3. How many endometriosis surgeries have you performed annually over the past 5 years?

Answer:

Surgery to treat endometriosis is only undertaken immediately following a diagnostic laparoscopy should endometriosis be found. Due to this, all procedures are recorded as a diagnostic laparoscopy and such we do not have a reportable data set for confirmed cases of endometriosis which proceeded to surgical treatment.

We do not record this information in a centrally extractable format, we do not have a way to link the OPCS codes to the procedures. 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

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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

would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

4. What are your current estimated wait times for surgery to alleviate symptoms of endometriosis and how many women are currently on your wait list?

Answer:

The average is between 80 to 90 weeks

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