

Date 25/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10162

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PRIVATE PRESCRIPTIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to private prescriptions.

Question:

- The number of patients who received assistance with private prescriptions from GP practices within the NHS Lothian area over the past 12 months.
- For this request, “assistance” refers to actions such as reviewing, advising on, or issuing private prescriptions by NHS-contracted GP practices.
- I am seeking aggregate data only, not any personal or identifiable information.
- If NHS Lothian does not collect or hold this data centrally, I would appreciate confirmation of that, or advice on where this data may be available.

Answer:

For the independent GMS practices this would need to be requested from the practices direct. As independent contractors they are responsible for their own FOI response and we do not have the information requested. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise we do not hold this information.

For 2c practices Edinburgh HSCP have advised that the answer is zero.

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

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

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