

Date 04/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10170

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SUICIDES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to in-patient suicides by calendar year for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Question:

1. Number of suicides in in-patient psychiatric units. Please also provide the following data for the past 12 months :

Answer:

The way we record suicide is under the Category **Self-harm** with Sub-Category **Suicide**.

There were five or fewer adverse events reported of suicides in in-patient psychiatric units in NHS Lothian between 2021-2025 (01/01/2021 to 30/05/2025 – date of request)

Question:

2. Number of suicides per 10,000 in-patient psychiatric admissions

Answer:

Information is not recorded in a way that would allow this question to be answered. 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:

3. Number of suicides of children and young people under 18 in in-patient psychiatric units

Answer:

No suicides within these facilities.

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*

Question:

4. Number of suicides per 10,000 children and young people under 18 admitted to in-patient psychiatric units

Answer:

Zero

Question:

5. Number of suicides within 3 months of being discharged from an in-patient psychiatric unit

Answer:

As per question 2 information is not recorded in a way that would allow this question to be answered.

Question:

6. Number of suicides per 10,000 discharges from in-patient psychiatric units within 3 months of discharge

Answer:

As above information is not recorded in a way that would allow this question to be answered.

Question:

7. Number of suicides of children and young people under 18 per 10,000 discharges from in patient-psychiatric units within 3 months of discharge

Answer:

As above information is not recorded in a way that would allow this question to be answered.

Question:

8. Number of suicides of children and young people under 18 discharged from in patient psychiatric units within 3 months of discharge

If less than 10,000 patients have been admitted or discharged in any of these categories, please provide the number as another proportion (e.g 1 in 10, 1 in 5436 etc etc).

The term psychiatric unit here refers to any in-patient psychiatric or mental health unit, ward, hospital, or other similar institution.

Answer:

As above information is not recorded in a way that would allow this question to be answered.

I am sorry I cannot help further 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