

Date 04/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10172

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HEART ATTACK

I write in response to your request for information in relation to. heart attacks

Question:

- Can I request the following information for each calendar year from 2019 to 2025 (most recent):
 1. The number of people misdiagnosed when they have had a heart attack, broken down by (a) men, and (b) women.
 4. The number of people misdiagnosed when they have had heart disease, broken down by (a) men, and (b) women.

Answer:

I am advised that for the period 01/01/2019 to 30/05/2025 (Date of request); Ca search was carried out under category: Diagnosis Failure; Situation (word search): * heart * and none of the adverse events returned were relevant to both questions

Question:

1. The median **completed wait** (in days) for correct diagnosis of a heart attack, broken down by (a) men, and (b) women.
2. The longest **completed wait** (in days) for correct diagnosis of a heart attack, broken down by (a) men, and (b) women.
5. The median **completed wait** (in days) for correct diagnosis of heart disease, broken down by (a) men, and (b) women.
6. The longest **completed wait** (in days) for correct diagnosis of heart disease, broken down by (a) men, and (b) women.

Answer:

I am advised that this level of detail is not held in a centrally extractable format.

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

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

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.

Nobody waits for a diagnosis of myocardial infarction; it is made rapidly in both male and female patients using the current NHS Lothian pathway.

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