

Date 27/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10182

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BREAST SCREENING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to breast screening.

Question:

- Can I request the following information for each calendar year from 2022 to 2025 (most recent):
 - The median **distance** (in miles) someone has travel for their Breast Screening appointment. (From their home address to the van location)
 - The longest **distance** (in miles) someone has travel for their Breast Screening appointment. (From their home address to the van location)

Answer:

We are unable to respond these questions. Data regarding distanced travelled is not routinely collected or analysed. Mobile units are placed as close to the GP practices being screened as is possible. Travel distance and transport routes are always taken into consideration to ensure that access to the units is as easy as possible for women along with the practical requirements for placement of the units so that they can operate safely and effectively.

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:

- The number of vans used for breast screening within your health board.

Answer:

The South East Scotland Breast Screening Service operates 6 mobile units in total that screen South West and Central Fife, the Scottish Borders, Eastern Forth Valley, Edinburgh and the

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*

Lothians, and Biggar in South Lanarkshire. The number of units being used in Lothian depends on the screening schedule and can vary between 1 and 3 at any time.

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