

Date 01/07/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10187

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WEIGHT LOSS DRUGS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to weight loss drugs.

### Question:

- Please can you provide me with any details you can about the number of patients who have presented at or been admitted to hospital in EACH of the last two financial years (up to March 31, 2025) and so far this financial year (April 1, 2024 onwards) for health problems caused by taking any of the following drugs: Wegovy (Semaglutide); Saxenda (Liraglutide); Ozempic (Semaglutide); Mounjaro (Tirzepatide); Victoza (Liraglutide). Please break the figures down for each year and for each type of drug.
- For example, medics in the UK have said they are treating patients suffering serious problems, such as pancreatitis and ketoacidosis, after the patients concerned took Semaglutide or Liraglutide. As mentioned, it may be that the drug was referred to by its brand name or by the drug itself. As such, any records may refer to it by either of these names. If possible, please break the figures down to give details of the complications patients presented with as a result of their use of these drugs.
- Please also provide details of how many patients deaths there have been in each separate year (for the years requested above) where the drugs mentioned above were listed as a contributing factor.

### Answer:

I am advised that we do not have this level of detail 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 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.

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*

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](http://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