

Date 03/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10198

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CONSULTANT POSTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to consultant posts within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. The total number of consultant-level doctors you currently have [WTE or equivalent]
2. The total number of vacant consultant-level doctor posts you currently have [WTE or equivalent]

Answer:

This information is publicly available via the following:-

<https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/03-june-2025-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-workforce/?pageid=14063>

Instructions question 1:

- Go to the employment over time report on the left side
- Select board – NHS Lothian
- Select job family – Medical and Dental
- Select band/grade – Consultant
- Select WTE
- (for locum employed consultants, please select fixed term under contract type).

Instructions question 2:

- Go to the vacancy report on the left side
- Select board – NHS Lothian
- Select Medical & Dental Consultants at the top (view data for)
- Select WTE

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
- Information otherwise accessible

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*

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

Question:

3. The total number of consultant-level posts substantially filled by agency locums for more than 6 months [WTE or equivalent]
4. The total spend on agencies for locum consultants (both framework and non-framework) for the 2024/25 financial year [£s]
5. Any existing or planned controls on recruitment of medical staff in 2025/26 [free text]

Answer:

3.	4.1 WTE
4.	£1,392,364
5.	Beyond the Vacancy Control process that is currently in place for all staff groups, there is nothing else in place at this 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