

Date 04/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10209

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
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Dear

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION – SOLAR ENERGY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to solar energy.

Question:

1. Governance & Responsibility
 - a. Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?
 - b. If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

Answer:

a.	Yes
b.	Senior Project Manager Energy & Technical Sustainability

Question:

2. Current Solar Deployment
 - a. How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?
 - b. What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?
 - c. What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

Answer:

a.	7
b.	320kWp
c.	Less than 1%

Question:

3. Investment & Strategy
 - a. Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?
 - b. If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

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*

Answer:

No

Question:

4. Solar and Net Zero Commitments

- a. Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?
- b. If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

Answer:

a.	Our Sustainable Development Framework identifies the need to increase the percentage of energy consumption generated from low carbon sources on our estate.
b.	Our annual Climate Emergency and Sustainability Report is available via the NHS Lothian website https://org.nhslothian.scot/sustainability/key-documents-publications/

Question:

5. Future Plans

- a. Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).
- b. Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

Answer:

a.	No specific projects planned at this time.
b.	No

Question:

6. Procurement & Partnerships

- a. Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?
- b. Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

Answer:

a.	No
b.	NHS Lothian, working with regional partners have issued a Prior Information Notice, which can be viewed at the following https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=AUG513209

Question:

7. Battery Storage

- a. Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?
- b. Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

Answer:

a.	No
b.	No committed plans, but the organisation has issued a Prior Information Notice (PIN) to engage market providers to understand potential technology and commercial options. https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=AUG513209

Question:

8. Funding

- Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

Answer:

Yes. Green Public Sector Estates Decarbonisation Scheme.

Question:

9. Barriers

- What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Answer:

Funding availability and scheme rules, roof suitability due to condition and orientation, lower carbon benefit compared to heat decarbonisation when considering 2040 targets.

Please note that all the links provided take you to publicly available information.

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

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

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