

Date 09/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10232

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – VENISON

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patient meals and venison.

Question:

1. Is venison served in meals for patients in your health board?
2. How many hospitals has venison been served in meals for patients in your health board across the last five years (please can you break that data up across the last five years)?
3. How much venison, in kilograms, was included in patient meals across the last five years in your health board (if possible, please could you provide that data broken up across the last five years)?
4. How much venison, per meal, was included in patient meals across the last five years in your health board (please could you provide that data broken up across the last five years)?

Answer:

We do not use venison in any of our menus across the organisation and have not over the last 5 years.

In part, this is due to lack of availability from National Procurement, but we have recently had a presentation from a venison supplier this is being investigated on a national basis. We then would need to test the acceptability with patients.

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

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*

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