

Date 09/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10233

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PHARMACY STAFFING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to pharmacy staffing.

Question:

1. For each centre within your health board that provides neonatal care, please answer:
 - a. How many funded neonatal intensive care unit (ICU), neonatal high dependency unit (HDU) and special care baby unit (SCBU) cots are there?
 - b. Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist practising in neonatology at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?
 - c. Does the centre have access to a senior pharmacist with experience in the provision of parenteral nutrition, where necessary?
 - d. Do pharmacists working in neonatal care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?
 - e. How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) working in neonatal care are active independent prescribers?
 - f. Does the centre have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?
 - g. Does the centre have 5 day access to an aseptic and CIVA service where this is needed to provide bespoke parenteral nutrition or where there is substantial use of high risk intravenous medications?
 - h. Does the centre provide a five day or seven day neonatal service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.
 - i. How many clinical pharmacists work in neonatal care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?
 - ii. How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the neonatal care (whole time equivalent)?

Answer:

a.	9 (ICU) 8 (HDU) 22 (SCBU)
b.	Yes
c.	Yes
d.	No

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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

e.	0.5 WTE
f.	Yes
g.	Yes
h.	5 day clinical service but 7 day aseptic service
i.	0.5 WTE band 8a & 0.5 WTE band 7
ii.	0

Question:

2. Does your health board have a paediatric critical care unit? For each paediatric critical care unit within your trust, please answer:
- How many funded paediatric level 2 and level 3 critical care beds are in the unit?
 - Does the unit have access to a senior pharmacist practising in paediatric critical care, funded at Agenda for Change (AFC) Band 8a or equivalent as a minimum?
 - Do pharmacists working in paediatric critical care attend daily multidisciplinary ward rounds?
 - How many pharmacists (whole time equivalent) in the unit are active independent prescribers?
 - Does the unit have access to medicines via the hospital dispensary 7 days a week, with regular stock top ups in accordance with demand, but no less than once a week?
 - Does the unit provide a five day or seven day service? If this varies for different beds, please answer the below separately for each service.
 - How many clinical pharmacists work in paediatric critical care (whole time equivalent), and at what AfC band?
 - How many ward-based pharmacy technicians work in the unit (whole time equivalent)?

Answer:

a.	6 level 2 (HDU) and 10 level 3 (ICU) beds, 3 (surgical NNU beds)
b.	yes
c.	Yes but falls away when short staffed / which is an ongoing challenge
d.	1
e.	Yes
f.	5 day clinical pharmacy service / 7 day aseptic service
i.	0.5 WTE band 8a and 0.5 WTE band 7
ii.	0

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive