

Date: 27/08/2025  
Our Ref: 10015  
Enquiries to [loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH ROOM USE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to room use in mental health services in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

1. Room Conversions: Please provide the total number of rooms at Royal Edinburgh Hospital that were not originally constructed or designated as patient bedrooms (eg, staff offices or similar spaces), which have been converted or repurposed and used on an ad-hoc basis to accommodate patients at any point over the past twelve months.

### Answer:

13 rooms across adult acute admission wards at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital are currently being used as bedrooms, that were not designed as bedrooms. This includes interview rooms, meeting rooms and day rooms.

We now have a plan aligned with the new supported accommodation model, under which these rooms are being permanently closed as individuals are discharged into appropriate supported housing. We anticipate all such rooms will be permanently closed by the end of November 2025, if not sooner.

### Question:

2. Patient Use: Please provide the total number of individual patients who have been accommodated in such rooms at any time during their inpatient stay at REH within the past twelve months.

3. Patient-Days in Non-Clinical Rooms: Please provide the total number of patient-days associated with such accommodation at REH over the past twelve months. (That is, the cumulative total of days each patient spent in these repurposed rooms.)

### Answer:

I am advised that this information is not collected centrally. This is because on the electronic recording system these patients had been recorded as being in the holding area alongside other patients transferred from acute hospitals. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be

necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

However, we've recently implemented a new reporting process that will allow us to provide this information going forward.

Question:

4. Copies of any risk assessments undertaken prior to allowing patients to use such rooms, identifying for example any risks in terms of ligature points or otherwise.

Answer:

Risk assessments carried out for each individual patient, rather than overall for a room or clinical area. These risk assessments are not collected centrally but are recorded in individual patient records. In order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

In addition, risk assessments will contain the personal details of the patient and as such we would not be able to release these as they may lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive