

Date 18/07/2025
Our Ref 10291

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WEIGHT LOSS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to weight loss and surgery.

Question:

- What is the content of any policy document or clinical referral protocol or guidance (henceforth abbreviated as 'policy') in current use in the Health Board which describes whether patients living with overweight or obesity, who are under consideration or seeking referral for hip or knee replacement surgery, are subject to any of the following:
 - A BMI threshold for referral to surgery or listing for surgery
 - A requirement to accept referral or support for weight management ahead of surgical referral or listing for surgery
 - A requirement to demonstrate attempted or successful weight loss ahead of surgical referral or listing for surgery
 - Postponement or delay to their surgical referral or listing for surgery, whether or not the patient chooses to engage in weight management during that time.
 - What was the start date for the policy?

Answer:

I am advised that the Orthopaedic Directorate has no policy in relation to any of the criteria you have described. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

Each patient is considered on an individual basis, and surgery is offered if appropriate. BMI is just one of many factors.

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

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
*Lothian NHS Board is the common
name of Lothian Health Board*

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