

Date 01/08/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10305

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADVERSE INCIDENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to adverse incidents.

Question:

*For each of the past 10 financial years and the current financial year (2014/15 – 2025/26):*

1. *The total number of adverse incidents reported with a risk to patient safety.*

Answer:

There were 210,930 adverse events (incidents) reported with a risk to patient safety for the period 01/04/2014 to 04/07/2025 (date of request).

This response relates to harm / near misses involving patients and excludes adverse events relating to property.

Question:

2. *The proportion of these patient safety related adverse incidents that caused a) no harm, b) low harm, c) moderate harm, d) severe harm, and e) death.*

Answer:

The table below details the total number of patient safety related adverse events (incidents) reported for the period 01/04/2014 to 04/07/2025 (date of request). The data is broken down by Severity of harm and financial year.

This response relates to harm / near misses involving patients and excludes adverse events relating to property.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
No known adverse effect at this time	12895	12858	12692	12165	12295	12087
Harm to a person -minor	4844	4805	4935	4764	4571	4239
Harm to a person -moderate	556	627	530	555	567	576
Harm to a person -major	177	238	255	251	250	239
Harm to a person -death	193	211	237	265	257	247

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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*

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
No known adverse effect at this time	11891	12330	12815	13076	13753	3743
Harm to a person -minor	4409	4683	4712	5151	5472	1417
Harm to a person -moderate	514	721	805	960	1265	345
Harm to a person -major	255	280	304	356	339	105
Harm to a person -death	297	305	380	392	392	82

\* NHS Lothian definitions of harm:

Minor Harm - Minor injury or illness, first aid treatment possibly required.

Moderate Harm - Significant injury requiring medical treatment and/or counselling, short-term effects.

Major Harm - Intervention required to sustain life / long term incapacity or disability requiring medical treatment and/or counselling (e.g. All fractures with exception of fingers and toes)

Question:

3. *The number of these patient safety related adverse incidents due to an issue with estates or facility failures.*

Answer:

There were 40 patient safety related adverse events (incidents) reported due to an issue with estates or facility failures for the period 01/04/2014 to 04/07/2025 (date of FOI).

These are Adverse Events resulting to harm or near miss to a patient within our care or premises and reported on our adverse event reporting system under our Estates & Facilities Department for review.

Question:

4. *The adverse incidents reporting a) wrong site surgery, b) retained object post-procedure, and c) wrong implant/prosthesis.*

Answer:

We do not have categories for those specific adverse event types on our adverse event reporting system, so our system does not have the ability to search and identify these records.

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](http://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