Lothian NHS Board

Mainpoint 102 West Port Edinburgh EH3 9DN



Telephone: 0131 536 9000 www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Date: 22/08/2025 Our Ref: 10325

Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - THEATRE SESSIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to theatre hours and sessions in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Can you provide the following for the financial years 2014/15 to 2024/25 (11 financial years)

1. On theatre hours: the total a) available theatre hours; b) used theatre hours; and c) unused theatre hours (unused hours counts gaps between patients, late starts, early finishes & unused sessions).

Answer:

Please note that the figures we have provided in this response differ from the figures provided in the response to your previous request (ref. 9652). This is because the previous data provided did not include the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, and this has been rectified in the data provided here. I apologise for this mistake in the previous response.

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Theatre hours, NHS Lothian				
Year	Available hours	Used hours	Unused hours	
2014-15	82,204	68,307	13,897	
2015-16	80,094	67,796	12,298	
2016-17	78,937	66,538	12,399	
2017-18	78,803	65,551	13,252	
2018-19	80,787	67,347	13,440	
2019-20	77,815	63,785	14,030	
2020-21	60,659	44,562	16,097	
2021-22	71,878	49,690	22,188	
2022-23	79,810	56,678	23,132	
2023-24	83,069	62,679	20,390	
2024-25	82,450	64,697	17,753	











Question:

2. On theatre sessions: the total a) available theatre sessions; b) used theatre sessions; and c) unused theatre sessions.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Theatre sessions, NHS Lothian				
Year	Available sessions	Used sessions	Unused sessions	
2014-15	22,417	20,944	1,473	
2015-16	22,186	20,484	1,702	
2016-17	22,032	20,307	1,725	
2017-18	22,584	20,184	2,400	
2018-19	22,971	20,826	2,145	
2019-20	22,676	19,988	2,688	
2020-21	17,221	14,818	2,403	
2021-22	21,474	16,869	4,605	
2022-23	22,922	18,994	3,928	
2023-24	22,615	20,255	2,360	
2024-25	22,675	20,357	2,318	

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs

Cc: Chief Executive