

Date: 08/08/2025
Our Ref: 10340
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – STAFF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to staff failing drug and alcohol tests in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Please provide the number of employees who have failed drugs or alcohol tests for each month since March 1, 2022 to date.
 - 1a. Please break this down by staff seniority level, location of failed drugs or alcohol test and type of drug found if applicable.
 - 1b. For the avoidance of doubt, please provide the number of non-negative test results, and for each of these, the number which were confirmed positive after being sent for 'back-to-lab' testing.
2. A list of the randomised drug and alcohol tests undertaken over the same time period. This should include the location (i.e. hospital or office), date, and number of employees tested at that test, including the number of failures.

Answer:

I am advised that this information is not held centrally. Information may be held in individual staff records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each staff 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.

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