

Date 15/08/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10366

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING LIST REMOVAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to removal from waiting lists.

### Question:

- For the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (most recent)  
The number of patients being removed from an NHS waiting list due to attending or being admitted at the private sector. [Please note: I am referring to patients who have chosen to pay for private treatment; NOT patients that are being treated as NHS patients at a private healthcare clinic].

### Answer:

We are unable to provide this information as the waiting list removal reasons do not have a specific option for private sector usage by patients.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients and removal from waiting lists over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

I am sorry I cannot help further 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

Headquarters  
Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

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

[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