

Date 22/08/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10376

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HAEMATOLOGY CAPACITY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to haematology capacity at the Western General Hospital.

Question:

- I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 relating to inpatient haematology capacity at the Western General Hospital. Specifically, I would like to request the following data for each of the financial years from 2014–15 to the most recent available, **so I can compare the pre and post-refurbishment periods.**

1. Bed Numbers

- The number of **designated haematology inpatient beds** (both before and after the relocation to the refurbished unit).
- The number of **total inpatient beds at Western General Hospital** over the same period.

2. Activity and Throughput

- The **total number of haematology inpatients treated per year.**
- The **total number of haematology outpatient attendances** (including day-case chemotherapy or other treatments managed via the day unit) per year.

3. Bed Occupancy and Outliers

- The **average monthly bed occupancy rate for haematology wards** at Western General, expressed as a percentage.
- The number of haematology inpatients who, during any point in their stay were **boarded to non-haematology wards** (i.e. "outliers") due to capacity constraints, for each year.
- If available, the **average length of stay** for haematology inpatients each year.

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

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*

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. 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

FOI: 10376 – Haematology Capacity and Bed Occupancy at Western General Hospital

Request:

I would like to request the following data for each of the financial years from 2014–15 to the most recent available, so I can compare the pre and post-refurbishment periods.

1. Bed Numbers
 - The number of designated haematology inpatient beds (both before and after the relocation to the refurbished unit).
 - The number of total inpatient beds at Western General Hospital over the same period.
2. Activity and Throughput
 - The total number of haematology inpatients treated per year.
 - The total number of haematology outpatient attendances (including day-case chemotherapy or other treatments managed via the day unit) per year.
3. Bed Occupancy and Outliers
 - The average monthly bed occupancy rate for haematology wards at Western General, expressed as a percentage.
 - The number of haematology inpatients who, during any point in their stay were boarded to non-haematology wards (i.e. “outliers”) due to capacity constraints, for each year.
 - If available, the average length of stay for haematology inpatients each year.

Date Extracted: 01/08/2025

Source: NHS Lothian TRAK
**Please note that this analysis comes from a LIVE System - if this analysis were to be re-run at a later date the figures may be subject to change.*

Response: Number of beds in Western General Hospital (includes day case beds)

Financial year	Average number of beds
2014/15	714
2015/16	712
2016/17	691
2017/18	697
2018/19	718
2019/20	731
2020/21	671
2021/22	641
2022/23	608
2023/24	611
2024/25	605

Table 1 Notes: 1. Bed numbers can change mid-year, therefore the average number of beds for a day within each financial year has been provided.

Number of haematology beds in Western General Hospital (includes day case beds)

Financial year	Number of haematology beds
2014/15	24
2015/16	24
2016/17	24
2017/18	24
01/04/2019 - 31/01/2020	24
01/02/2020 - 10/09/2021	0
11/09/2021 - 31/03/2022	19
2022/23	19
2023/24	19
2024/25	19

Table 2 Notes: 1. Bed numbers can change mid-year, therefore the average number of beds for a day within each financial year has been provided.
 2. Financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22 have been split into date ranges to reflect bed numbers over the refurbishment period

Number of haematology patients treated in Western General Hospital

Financial year	Number of inpatient episodes	Number of day cases	Number of outpatient attendances
2014/15	1525	11274	8850
2015/16	1698	11611	9018
2016/17	1705	11779	9212
2017/18	1757	11848	9191
2018/19	1780	12358	9210
2019/20	1787	12710	8942
2020/21	1252	12155	7397
2021/22	1562	13666	9683
2022/23	1760	15485	12576
2023/24	1672	16235	12864
2024/25	1836	16281	12892

Table 3 Notes: 1. Patients counted in financial year of discharge for inpatients and day cases, and financial year of appointment date for outpatients.
 2. Inpatients are counted where any part of their inpatient episode included time under the haematology specialty.
 3. Outpatient appointments are counted where the patient arrived and was seen

Haematology ward monthly percentage occupancy at Western General Hospital

Month-Financial year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
April	100	100	99.3	97.8
May		100	98.4	98.8
June		100	97.7	97.9
July		101	97.4	96.3
August		99.3	99.2	97.4
September	100	101.5	98.3	98.7
October	100	99.4	98.7	99.6
November	100	97.3	97.9	99.4
December	100	105.7	91.2	98.8
January	100	98.8	99.2	100.6
February	100	98.6	98.2	98.2
March	100	102.3	97.9	92.6

Table 4 Notes: 1. Occupancy data is only available from January 2021 onwards and so data has been provided from the first complete financial year available (2021/22)
 2. Data provided for inpatient haematology wards WGH08 and WGH08U
 3. Closed beds are excluded from the denominator
 4. There were no open beds or patients in May to August 2021 and so occupancy cannot be calculated.

Haematology boarders at Western General Hospital

Financial year	Number of boarders
2014/15	337
2015/16	385
2016/17	416
2017/18	400
2018/19	546
2019/20	216
2020/21	0
2021/22	266

2022/23	532
2023/24	473
2024/25	516

Table 5 Notes: 1. Admissions counted once in each financial year where any period under the haematology specialty overlapped with a period of boarding where the parent ward was WGH08 or WGH08U

Average length of stay within haematology at Western General Hospital

Financial year	Average length of haematology stay (days)
2014/15	6.2
2015/16	6.0
2016/17	5.8
2017/18	5.2
2018/19	6.3
2019/20	6.9
2020/21	6.4
2021/22	5.7
2022/23	5.3
2023/24	5.4
2024/25	5.1

Table 6 Notes: 1. LOS counted in financial year of patient discharge date from WGH haematology