

Date 12/08/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10379

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEONATAL ADMISSIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to neonatal admissions.

### Question:

- How many times has the neonatal unit (or units if more than one) in the health board been unable to accept new admissions between 1 April 2024 and 31 March of this year? Please detail the recorded reason why.
- How many times has the neonatal unit (or units if more than one) in the health board been unable to accept new admissions between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024? Please detail the recorded reason why.

### Answer:

There are two maternity units in NHS Lothian, one at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and one at St John's Hospital, Livingston. The units are run together to manage capacity. Neither unit has ever been closed to admissions but if one unit is at capacity, women are admitted to the other unit.

For this reason we hold no data on neonatal admissions not being accepted. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise we do not hold this information.

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.

Headquarters  
Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
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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*

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