

Date: 26/11/2025
Our Ref: 10765
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – COVID-19 HUB

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the covid-19 hub in NHS Lothian.

Question:

I am writing to request information held by your organisation regarding COVID-19 patient interactions at your COVID-19 hub (or equivalent service), for the prior 12 months up to the latest data point available, with a particular focus on access to antivirals. The information is expected to be received as aggregated totals. This information is being requested on behalf of Pfizer Ltd.

1. Patient Attendance. How many patients in total have accessed the service in the last 12 months?

Answer:

This data is provided for patients accessing covid antivirals in a community setting in NHS Lothian and does not include activity from secondary care where data is not collated.

257 patients attended the Covid-19 hub.

Question:

2. What referral method to the service made up the contribution of all referrals? HCP Referral (primary care), HCP Referral (secondary care), Patient Self-referral, Other, Daily Interventions

Answer:

All patients self-refer via telephone to the Lothian flow navigation centre.

Question:

3. How many patients were qualified to receive some sort of pharmacological intervention (aligned to NICE), regardless of whether they went on to receive treatment?

Answer:

213 patients.

Question:

4. How many patients received pharmacological treatment?

Answer:

184 patients.

Question:

5. For patients who did not receive pharmacological treatment, what were the top 3 reasons for a patient not receiving treatment? e.g.: Outside of treatment window, not eligible (NICE), watch & wait, symptoms not severe enough, late positive test result, etc.

Answer:

The top three reasons were:

- declined treatment following consultation
- not eligible according to NICE criteria
- residing temporarily outside of Lothian so directed to local arrangements.

Question:

6. For those patients that did receive treatment, what was their main underlying primary condition that qualified them to be eligible to receive treatment e.g. Solid Cancer, immune suppressed, renal disease, etc.

Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient 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.

Question:

7. Capacity. How many HCPs do you have within the COVID-19 service? i.e. no. of prescribers, no. of additional staff, etc.

Answer:

The service is covered on a rota basis. 39 Pharmacists have undertaken the assessments across the last 12 months and the team is supported by administrative staff from pharmacy and flow navigation service.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive