

Date 27/11/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10776

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DELAYED DISCHARGE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to delayed discharge.

Question:

1. The number of patients who died in hospital while awaiting discharge after it was delayed.
Please provide this information for each calendar year since 2019 to 2025 (most recent)

Answer:

Discharge year	Number of patients (excluding 100s)	Number of patients with a health and social care code
2019	60	56
2020	24	23
2021	45	38
2022	56	44
2023	47	35
2024	42	34
2025 (to date)	34	24

Question:

2. The number of patients 65 and over who died in hospital while awaiting discharge after it was delayed. **Please provide this information for each calendar year since 2019 to 2025 (most recent)**

Answer:

Discharge year	Number of patients (excluding 100s)	Number of patients with a health and social care code
2019	57	54
2020	20	19

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

2021	45	38
2022	52	40
2023	40	30
2024	37	31
2025 (to date)	32	22

Question:

3. The number of patients with dementia who died in hospital while awaiting discharge after it was delayed. **Please provide this information for each calendar year since 2019 to 2025 (most recent)**

Answer:

Discharge year	Number of patients (excluding 100s)	Number of patients with a health and social care code
2019	13	13
2020	7	7
2021	12	8
2022	18	11
2023	19	10
2024	15	11
2025 (to date)	12	8

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 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