

Date 27/11/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10778

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OUTSOURCED RADIOLOGY REPORTING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to outsourced radiology reporting.

### Question:

- How much was spent by the authority on outsourced radiology reporting in the following two periods:
  - the financial year 2024/25
  - the six months from 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025
- For each of these periods, please state the amount spent with each of the following suppliers
  - Everlight Radiology
  - Four Ways
  - Medica
  - Telemedicine Clinic (TMC)
  - Dulwich Medical Centre
  - Hexarad
  - Other (please provide the name or names)
- Has the authority formally tendered these services within the past 5 years?
- If the answer to 3 is yes, please provide the following information
  - When was the tender awarded
  - Was it awarded to a single supplier, and if so which
  - What is the duration of the contract, with optional extension periods
  - Was the contract split into lots, for example non urgent routine reporting, and urgent out of hours reporting
- Which suppliers of radiology reporting services currently have bi-directional access to the authority's patient record systems to allow access to patient records and input of radiology reports.

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*

6. Is the trust able to split the spend stated in response to question 1 into: urgent reporting (such as the Medica Nighthawk service for A&E patients); and routine backlog reporting. If so, please provide this split
7. Does the risk of cyber attack as a result of providing the access described in 5 appear on the trust risk register and what level of risk rating is it given

Answer:

1.	the financial year 2024/25 – no spend in this period the six months from 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025 - £61,510.92
2.	<p>Nuffield Health – <u>scans and reports £46,850,</u></p> <p>NHS Lothian has sourced reporting capacity from the established Scottish National Radiology Reporting Service (SNRRS). SNRRS is a national function that sees Radiologists with substantive contracts with Scottish NHS Boards provide additional reporting capacity for other Scottish Health Boards. The service has been in place for a small number of years, though NHS Lothian has only made use of it within 2025/26 for the first time- total spend in period requested £14,660.92</p>
3.	No
4.	N/A
5.	There is no bi-directional access in place with Nuffield
6.	<p>NHS Lothian do not comment on cyber activity or risks in a public forum.</p> <p>NHS Lothian believe that by releasing this information into the public domain, we are providing information which will increase the risk of the organisations IT infrastructure being unlawfully targeted and penetrated by unnecessarily exposing information related to its current infrastructure . Organisations could use the information provided to then orchestrate focussed cyber attacks on NHS Lothian. Such attempts, if successful, would be likely to prejudice substantially the Board's ability to exercise a number of its purposes, but particularly those described under FOISA section 30(c) i.e., be likely to prejudice substantially effective conduct of public affairs. For this reason, we believe that the exemption under FOISA, section 30(c) applies to the information requested.</p> <p>We acknowledge that any exemption applying under section 30 is also subject to the public interest test. We have therefore applied the public interest test and subsequently determined that, in the context of this specific case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in disclosure of the information."</p>
7.	Only routine

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.

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