

Date 27/11/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10786

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MATERNITY STAFFING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to maternity staffing.

Question:

- On how many occasions did staff employed on maternity units in your health board report concerns relating to staffing levels or shortages in (a) 2020/21, (b) 2021/22, (c) 2022/23, (d) 2023/24 and (e) 2024/25

Answer:

I am advised tht we do not have a specific Category on our adverse event reporting system for “concerns relating to staffing levels” or “shortages”, however we do use an adverse event Category of “Staffing Issues” for which we have provided the data.

The table below details the number of adverse events reported in NHS Lothian maternity units under the Category **Staffing Issue** for the financial year 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2025.

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Staffing Issue	5<	26	75	39	58

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

I hope the information provided helped 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

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*

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