

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MESOTHELIOMA

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mesothelioma treatment in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

1. Please provide the number individuals diagnosed with mesothelioma in NHS Lothian, by hospital, for the period 2020 to date, broken down by year, if possible.

### Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This data comes from Cancer Registry information for the four year period 2020-2024. The 2025 data is not yet reported.

I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

For this reason, were there were small numbers of patients diagnosed at particular hospitals and clinics I have grouped these under 'other hospitals.' The other hospitals included here are St John's Hospital Livingston, Midlothian Community Hospital, Leith Community Treatment Centre, Lauriston Buildings and East Lothian Community Hospital.

Patients diagnosed with mesothelioma, NHS Lothian					
Hospital	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Western General Hospital	13	10	7	5<	10
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	7	17	7	15	7
Other hospitals	5<	10	10	12	5<

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 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