

Date 16/12/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10837

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SAER

I write in response to your request for information in relation to SAER within the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Question:

- *How many SAER (significant adverse event reviews) reviews took place within Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in the last 12 months?*

Answer:

There were 21 'Level 1' Significant Adverse Event Reviews commissioned for Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in the last 12 months (01/11/2024 to 31/10/2025).

Question:

- *Of these SAER's how many resulted in a death?*

Answer:

There were 13 of these reviews commissioned for patients who died.

Reviews are ongoing for 12 of these events therefore it is not possible to provide the outcome of the review. 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).

Please see below for explanation of outcome codes allocated at the conclusion of each review.

Outcome codes:

- **Appropriate care** - The adverse event review concluded that the care and/or service was well planned and appropriately delivered

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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*

- **Indirect system of care issues** - The adverse event review identified indirect or incidental sub-optimal care or service issues and lessons that could be learned (and good practice points). However, these were unlikely to have affected the final outcome.
- **Minor system of care issues** - The adverse event review identified minor or sub-optimal care or service provision and that a different plan or delivery of care/service may have resulted in a different outcome.
- **Major system of care issues** - The adverse event review identified that a different plan and/or delivery of care or service would, on the balance of probability, have been expected to result in a more favourable outcome

Question:

- *How many SAERs took place in The Royal Edinburgh hospital in the same 12 months and of these how many resulted in a patient death.?*

Answer:

There were less than 5 Level 1 Significant Adverse Events reviews commissioned by the Royal Edinburgh in the last 12 months (01/11/2024 to 31/10/2025). Less than 5 were for patients who died. As these reviews are ongoing, it is not possible to say whether a different plan or delivery of care/service may have resulted in a different outcome for the patient.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or fewer 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 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