

Date 16/12/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10850

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – RECONSTRUCTIVE OR CORRECTIVE EYE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to reconstructive or corrective eye.

### Question:

- The number of patients treated at your hospital for reconstructive or corrective eye surgery due to complications from eye-colour changing procedures carried out abroad.
- If possible and it does not exceed the cost: Of those cases, please specify how many were linked to: Iris implant surgery, Keratopigmentation, laser depigmentation, or any other cosmetic procedure intended to alter eye colour.

### Answer:

I am advised that we do not hold the information requested in a centrally extractable format.

We do not hold data on why people receive a given procedure. We would need to undertake complex data linkage between multiple datasets: linking procedures data, to complications data and previous clinical history, in addition to manually reviewing clinical notes by a medically trained HCP.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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

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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*

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive