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Date 12/12/2025
 Your Ref
 Our Ref 10856

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – FOREIGN OBJECTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to foreign objects.

Question:

- The number of adults who have presented at hospital for help removing foreign objects from their rectal or vaginal passage, from November to January (November, December, January), each year since 2015.

Answer:

Months	Count
Nov 17, Dec 17, Jan 18	15
Nov 18, Dec 18, Jan 19	13
Nov 19, Dec 19, Jan 20	28
Nov 20, Dec 20, Jan 21	18
Nov 21, Dec 21, Jan 22	10
Nov 22, Dec 22, Jan 23	11
Nov 23, Dec 23, Jan 24	12
Nov 24, Dec 24, Jan 25	19

- Includes patients aged 18 years and over with an A&E presentation in November, December or January with a diagnosis coded as T18.5 (Foreign body in anus and rectum) or T19.2 (Foreign body in vulva and vagina)
- Western General Hospital does not code diagnoses so is not included in these results
- Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and St John's Hospital at Howden began coding diagnoses in November 2017 and April 2018, respectively, so data are not available prior to these dates

Question:

2. A list of the items that have been retrieved each year during this period (November, December, and January, 2015-2025).

Answer:

We are unable to answer this question as it would require detailed analysis of patient notes. 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 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive