

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WINTER PREPAREDNESS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to winter preparedness in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

1. Please provide a copy of the health board's 2025 operational surge and winter preparedness plan.
2. Has the health board submitted its 2025 operational surge and winter preparedness plan to the Scottish Government? If so, on which date did they submit this?
3. Was a deadline set for health boards to submit their plans to the Scottish Government? If so, when was it set, how long did the health board have to submit plans. and what was the deadline date to submit plans?
4. On which date did health boards receive the Scottish Government's surge and winter preparedness in health and social care services national planning priorities and principles?

### Answer:

I am advised that the Scottish Government has not formally requested a winter surge plan, and therefore a formal plan has not been constructed or submitted. Winter planning is now part of business continuity processes and planning throughout the year.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive