

Date 12/01/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10919

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to weight management.

Question:

1. Do you commission a specialist weight management service? Is it located within your catchment area? If not, where are people within your area requiring specialist weight management services typically referred?

Answer:

NHS Lothian provides a Specialist Weight Management Service (WMS) across Lothian which includes Edinburgh City, West Lothian, East Lothian, and Midlothian. From April 2025, funding for weight management and Type 2 diabetes prevention services in Scotland was allocated on a recurring basis within health boards' baseline budgets, services are not commissioned.

Question:

2. If you commission a specialist weight management service, is it currently accepting new referrals? And if it is not accepting new referrals, when did this come into effect?

Answer:

The Lothian Specialist WMS is currently accepting new referrals for all of the services it provides.

Question:

3. Does the specialist weight management service you commission prescribe GLP-1RA weight loss drugs? And if yes, does this include the following (please specify all those it includes):
 - Liraglutide (Saxenda®)
 - Semaglutide (Wegovy®)
 - Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)

Answer:

Not yet, but these medicines are now on the East Region Formulary as an adjunctive treatment for weight management and the plan is to have pathways in place for prescribing

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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

obesity medicines including GLP-1RAs. Until pathways are in place we are not accepting referrals for the initiation of obesity medicines.

Question:

4. If yes, how many patients have been prescribed a GLP-1RA for weight loss through the service you commission?

Answer:

Not applicable.

Question:

5. If the service does not prescribe GLP-1RAs, is there a planned start date for when the services may begin prescribing GLP-1RAs for weight loss?

Answer:

We do not have confirmed timescales for implementation, however, we are committed to progressing this work as swiftly and safely as possible. Updates will be provided on our website as appropriate [Anti-Obesity Medicines – Adult Weight Management and Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Service](#)

Question:

6. Do you fund bariatric surgery for people living in your catchment area?
7. Please list all the current criteria that are used for funding decisions regarding bariatric surgery - for example, but not limited to, BMI cut-offs, type 2 diabetes status, time in weight management service, requirement for preoperative weight loss, comorbidities etc.
8. Is there a commissioned/designated bariatric surgery service located within your catchment area? If not, where are people requiring bariatric surgery within your area typically referred?

Answer:

6.	Yes, we have funding for our healthboard - NHS Lothian.
7.	Not applicable. Monies to healthboard not linked to individual funding.
8.	Not applicable

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