

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – RADIOLOGY REPORTING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to radiology reporting in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, and separately 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 (or, if more readily available, FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25): The total number of Plain Radiography (X-ray / plain film) examinations performed by the Trust.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

X-rays performed, NHS Lothian	
Year	Number of x-rays
2023/24	361,300
2024/25	362,334

Question:

2. For the same period(s), please provide: a) The total number of examinations reported externally (outsourced / via teleradiology), broken down by modality where available: a) Plain film (X-ray), b) CT, c) MRI, d) Ultrasound, e) Other (please specify)

Answer:

Some MRI and CT scans were outsourced in 2023/24. Both the scan and the reporting were outsourced. The numbers are detailed in the table below. There was no outsourced reporting in 2024/25.

Outsourced scans, NHS Lothian, 2023/24	
Scan	Number of scans
CT	1,096
MRI	1,428

Question:

- b) The total expenditure (£) on outsourced radiology reporting services, broken down by supplier.

Answer:

The spend for the outsourced scanning and reporting in 2023/24 was £546,455. There was no spend in 2024/25.

Question:

c) The names of the suppliers used for outsourced reporting (for example, Everlight, Medica, etc.) and the total amount paid to each supplier.

Answer:

The supplier was Nuffield Health.

Question:

3. Where available, please include any internal categorisation used by the Trust (for example, urgent vs routine reporting, out-of-hours reporting, or turnaround time bands).

Answer:

The scans undertaken externally are broken down by category in the table below:

External scanning by urgency, 2023-24, NHS Lothian		
Category	CT	MRI
Urgent suspicion of cancer	15	8
Urgent	39	74
Routine	1,042	1,346
Total	1,096	1,428

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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