

Date 19/01/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 10961

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – VETERANS NETWORK

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Veterans Networks.

Question:

1. Any documentation that sets out the Health Board's policy in meeting its commitments with the Armed Forces Covenant.
2. Confirmation whether the Health Board has a Veterans Network to help veterans seeking access to services.
3. For the last five financial years, 2024/25, 2023/24, 2022/23, 2021/22, 2020/21, please provide the cost, if any, of providing services as part of the Health Board's commitment with the Armed Forces Covenant.

Answer:

I am advised that officially there is no recognised network either in individual hospitals or across the NHS Lothian.

We have the St John's NAAFI Break. This is a loose network of Veterans and Dependents that meet monthly.

There is also the following available from our website:

[Armed Forces and Veteran's Network](#)
[NAAFI Break the SJH Armed Forces and Veterans Network](#)
email contact [loth.sjhamedforcesnetwork@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.sjharmedforcesnetwork@nhs.scot)

[Western General Hospital Armed Forces Network](#)
email contact loth.wgharmedforcesnetwork@nhs.scot

This information is exempt under **Section 25** of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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