

Date 20/01/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – EXPOSURE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patients and exposure.

### Question:

- How many people were (a) treated by your trust where the external cause of them being admitted was recorded as X31 Exposure to excessive natural cold. Please answer the following two questions giving numbers for each of the following financial years (i) 2020/21, (ii) 2021/22, (iii) 2022/23, (iv) 2023/24 and (v) 2024/25
- Of the people referred to in Question 1 how many of them were logged where any of their diagnosis codes (either primary diagnosis or a secondary diagnosis) were (a) any form of pneumonia, or (b) T68 X hypothermia.

If possible I would ask you to EXCLUDE those where the person was recorded as being homeless in that they did not have a home to live in. This exemption should not be extended to people described as NFA in that they lived in a home although did not necessarily have a fixed/permanent address.

### Answer:

Please note the results contain all patients, *including* homeless and NFA patients. Unfortunately the data for identification of homeless patients is not detailed enough to distinguish between different forms of homelessness and would for instance also include patients in temporary accommodation or NFA but temporarily housed, therefore we haven't applied any exclusions.

Table 1: Diagnoses by financial year

Financial year	Discharges diagnosed X31
2020/21	49
2021/22	31
2022/23	43
2023/24	22
2024/25	21

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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

Table 2: Of those above, discharges also coded with hypothermia or pneumonia

Financial year	Discharges diagnosed with hypothermia	Discharges diagnosed with pneumonia
2020/21	44	7
2021/22	27	5<
2022/23	40	8
2023/24	22	5<
2024/25	19	5<

1. Diagnosis is coded at patient discharge and patients are counted in the financial year of their discharge date
2. Figures include all patients including homeless and patients without a fixed abode (NFA)
3. Exposure to excessive natural cold was identified by ICD-10 code X31
4. Hypothermia was identified by ICD-10 code T68X
5. Pneumonia was identified by ICD-10 codes J12-J18, J10.0, and J11.0
6. In table 2, discharges diagnosed with both hypothermia and pneumonia are counted in both columns

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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](http://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