

Date 23/01/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 10988

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PICTURE ARCHIVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS).

Question:

- If, in January 2023, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon employed by NHS Lothian was to access x-ray images taken within NHS Tayside in September 2018 - what would be the correct protocol and procedure for doing so?
- Would any such access to the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) be logged within the NHS Tayside and/or NHS Lothian systems.

Answer:

NHS National Services Scotland have a national PACS system which sends Xray images taken in each local board into a National Archive.

These images are available to any Health Board in Scotland, and access to these images would be logged on the National PACS system.

As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information and that you should Contact NHS NSS - [Welcome to National Services Scotland](#).

I am sorry I cannot help further 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

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

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