

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TAXI JOURNEYS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patient taxi journeys.

Question:

1. The number of taxi journeys paid for by the health board to transport patients to and from hospital appointments, including A&E, for each financial year from 2019-20 to 2024-25.
2. The total cost of taxi journeys paid for by the health board to transport patients to and from hospital appointments, including A&E, for each financial year from 2019-20 to 2024-25.
3. The furthest individual taxi journey recorded in each of those years (2019-20 to 2024-25), including the start and end locations (or distance if preferred).

Answer:

Taxi Costs (Gross , before any discounts)

	Patient trips	Number of trips	Mileage of longest trip (approx)
2019/20	£446,728	19,036	260
2020/21	£465,651	19,968	200
2021/22	£648,487	27,378	275
2022/23	£587,103	23,916	265
2023/24	£756,554	31,212	330
2024/25	£825,630	30,397	330

Please note these numbers may include journeys between different hospital sites, it will require significant work to go through these journeys in more detail. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. Any additional information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all finance ledgers/systems relating to patient transport over the period

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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





you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Also please note the costs are gross costs, i.e. prior to any discounts applied.

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
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Cc: Chief Executive