

Date 29/01/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 10997

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CIRCUMCISIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to circumcisions.

Question:

1. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for all age ranges at NHS Lothian.
2. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for all age ranges at NHS Lothian using general anaesthesia.
3. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for all age ranges at NHS Lothian using local anaesthesia.
4. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for therapeutic reasons for all age ranges using general anaesthesia at NHS Lothian.
5. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for therapeutic reasons for all age ranges using local anaesthesia at NHS Lothian.
6. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for religious and cultural using general anaesthesia at NHS Lothian.
7. For the year 1st January 2025 - 31st December 2025 the total number of circumcisions performed for religious and cultural reasons using local anaesthesia at NHS Lothian.

Answer:

Total Surgeries	459
Performed under General Anaesthetic	358
Performed under Local Anaesthetic	89

Notes:

1. We cannot provide data for numbers of procedures performed for therapeutic or religious/cultural reasons since we do not collect this data. Accordingly, we cannot answer Q4-Q7.
2. The data provided refer to procedures performed during 2025 where either:

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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

- the operating theatre OPCS description included the text "CIRCUMCISION"
- or (when the OPCS description was missing) the waiting list procedure description was "CIRCUMCISION WL".

A total of 12 procedures were performed either under a mode of anaesthesia other than local or general, or the mode of anaesthesia was not recorded.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period 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.

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