

Date 09/02/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11021

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – COLD DEBRIEFS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cold debriefs following a critical incident.

Question:

- I would be grateful if you could please confirm whether the Trust holds recorded information relating to the use of cold debriefs following critical or serious clinical events, such as respiratory or cardiac resuscitations, unforeseen patient deaths, medical futility, medical errors and patient / visitor violence, specifically in the Paediatric Emergency Department's that are Major Trauma Centres.

If so, please provide copies of any recorded information you hold that sets out:

- Whether cold debriefs are routinely conducted following critical events
- The specified timeframe for when cold debriefs are held following an event
- Which staff groups or roles are expected or required to attend cold debriefs, including nonparticipants of the critical event
- Which role, team, or department is responsible for organising and facilitating cold debriefs
- Whether a standard pro forma, template, or guidance document is used for cold debriefs, and if so, a copy of the most recent version.

Answer:

I am advised that we do not hold 'recorded information relating to the use of cold debriefs following critical or serious clinical events, such as respiratory or cardiac resuscitations, unforeseen patient deaths, medical futility, medical errors and patient / visitor violence.' As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

I am sorry I cannot help with your request.

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



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
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive