

Date 10/02/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11053

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ASTHMA

I write in response to your request for information in relation to work related asthma.

### Question:

1. Work-related asthma counts

Please provide annual anonymised counts of patients where occupational asthma or work-related asthma is recorded (or the closest equivalent code/flag used by the Board), and where occupation or industry is recorded as fish processing, seafood processing, or salmon processing (or closest available).

If held, please provide the counts split by:

a) year

b) the patient's NHS Board area (if different to this Board) or by locality within the Board if that is how it is recorded.

2. Recorded trigger or suspected agent

If your systems record suspected trigger or causative agent for asthma, please provide annual anonymised counts where the trigger/agent is recorded as fish or seafood proteins, fish processing, seafood aerosols, or similar terms used locally.

3. Clinic pathway signal

If held, please provide annual counts of referrals to respiratory clinics or occupational medicine services where the referral is flagged as work-related asthma or occupational asthma and the occupation/industry is fish or seafood processing (as above).

4. Recording practice

Please confirm whether your systems include standard fields for:

a) occupation or industry, and

b) suspected occupational trigger or causative agent,

for asthma referrals or respiratory clinic episodes, and if so what categories are available that relate to fish or seafood processing.

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*



Answer:

I am advised that we do not record detail on specific occupation / industry within our systems. 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.

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