

Date 24/02/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11062

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DEATHS

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

Question:

1. **All-cause deaths** recorded by your organisation (or within the area you cover) for each year from **2015 to 2025**, inclusive.
2. For each year, please provide a breakdown of all-cause deaths by the following categories:
 - o **Sex**
 - o **Ethnicity**
 - o **Age group** (please specify the age ranges used)
3. For each category above, I would also like a summary of the **causes of death**, ideally coded using **ICD-10** (or your organisation's standard classification), and with counts of deaths per cause.

If providing the full breakdown by cause for every combination of sex, ethnicity, and age group would exceed the cost limit under the Act, please advise whether the data can be provided in alternative aggregated formats (for example, by year and sex/ethnicity, or age band and cause).

Answer:

I am advised that the information you have requested can be accessed via contacting National Records of Scotland (NRS) <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/> or the following link [Deaths Time Series, 2024 \(Corrected\)](#). Any data held by NHS Lothian is taken from NRS, not produced by us.

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.



I hope that NRS can help you 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 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