

Date 16/02/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 1066

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 – IUD/COIL ACCESS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to IUD/Coil Access.

Question:

1. Any current written policies, clinical guidelines, or eligibility criteria governing access to IUD/coil fitting within your service.

Answer:

We follow the national College of Sexual & Reproductive Health clinical guidance and service standards around IUD fitting.

Question:

2. Whether IUDs/coils are provided by your service for non-contraceptive purposes (including but not limited to management of dysmenorrhoea, menorrhagia, endometriosis or cycle regulation).

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

3. Whether eligibility for IUD/coil fitting is contingent on pregnancy risk, sexual activity with men, or use for contraception.

Answer:

For safety reasons, a pregnancy risk assessment is performed routinely prior to an IUD procedure for any clinical indication, in line with national clinical guidelines.

Question:

4. Any guidance provided to clinicians on assessing patient eligibility where contraception is not required for pregnancy prevention.

Answer:

The same clinical assessment is performed prior to an IUD fitting for any clinical indication. This involves a medical, drug and gynaecological history being obtained to ensure suitability

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*



for the method as determined by national clinical guidelines (UKMEC) and service standards for sexual health services.

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](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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive