

Date 26/02/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11101

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PALLIATIVE CARE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Palliative Care.

Question:

1. Are there any Specialist Palliative Care Units (SPCUs) within your Trust? If yes, please provide the name and address of these.
2. Please provide information on the following within your Trust between January 2023 and December 2025 (inclusive). Broken down by year if possible:
 - i. The number of suicides in SPCUs (by adults 18+)
 - ii. The number of attempted suicides in SPCUs (by adults 18+)
3. Please provide information on the following within your Trust between January 2023 and December 2025 (inclusive), excluding data provided in Q2. Broken down by year if possible:
 - i. The number of suicides in any hospital ward by patients receiving specialist palliative care (by adults aged 18+)
 - ii. The number of attempted suicides in any hospital ward by patients receiving specialist palliative care (by adults aged 18+)

Answer:

I am advised that there are no SPC Units in NHS Lothian.

It is also the case that we do not routinely record the type of care being provided on our adverse event reporting form, therefore we cannot extract the information you have requested. 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

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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*



request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost. However are Palliative Care Team are not aware of any such incidents.

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. 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