

Date 10/02/2026  
 Your Ref  
 Our Ref 11108

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Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to surgical instruments.

Question:

1. Number of surgical procedures cancelled or postponed since Jan 1st 2022 due to problems with surgical instruments, including: inadequate sterilisation, missing instruments, faulty equipment, or contamination concerns.

Answer:

Year	Incident
2022	5<
2023	7
2024	5<
2025	5<
Total	12

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

2. Number of internal incident reports or safety concerns raised since Jan 1st 2022 from health practitioners referring to issues with surgical equipment or instruments.

Answer:

We ran the following search on the Equipment Form within the Adverse Events module.  
**Reported Date:** 01/01/2022:29/01/2026 (date of FOI); **Product/Equipment Type:** we included everything apart from the below:

- Infrastructure and mounts
- McKinley T34

Headquarters  
 Mainpoint  
 102 West Port  
 Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
 Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
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- Microscopes, laboratory
- Neonatal incubator
- Non clinical consumables
- Non clinical equipment
- Patient scales
- Patient transport aids, wheelchair etc
- Physiotherapy equipment
- Vehicle

The table below details the number Adverse Events reported where the equipment field has been completed, and the list of equipment type, which may be used in surgery from 01/01/2022 to 29/01/2026 (date of FOI). The table is broken down by Product/Equipment Type and calendar year.

If anyone has left the equipment from blank, then they would not be included. We cannot confirm that all were reported from a surgical setting. Some 100% will be though e.g. surgical instruments.

Product/Equipment Type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Anaesthetic machine	11	6	11	10	0
Bed, mattress, theatre table, therapy chair	51	42	55	38	4
Blood -glucose, -clotting, -gas etc	11	16	12	19	0
Cardiotocograph, Fetal monitors	0	1	5	0	0
Clinical Consumables	49	42	62	73	7
Dialysis, Haemofiltrat, CAPD, water treat	6	8	3	2	0
ECG machines, Holter recording	4	2	6	2	0
EEG machines, evoked potentials	0	0	2	4	0
Electrosurgery	9	8	3	6	1
Endoscopy, rigid, flexible, scopes, stacks	4	7	9	9	0
Fluid and patient warmers	4	4	5	6	1
Imaging equipment	41	43	35	44	1
Implant devices	4	6	8	5	0
Infusion devices	45	44	90	60	3
Medical device consumables	20	14	27	24	2
Medical gases equipment	6	11	21	12	1
Medical lasers	0	1	1	3	0
Patient monitoring equipment	15	19	25	34	2
Phototherapy	3	2	8	13	0
Please specify in description field	114	143	145	125	10
Resus equipment inc defibrillator	8	7	8	6	0
Suction machines and wall suction	6	5	6	7	0
Surgical instruments	55	58	91	85	10

Therapeutic non-ionising radiation - ultrasound etc	5	1	1	1	0
Ventilation equipment	12	21	26	23	4

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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