

Date 10/03/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11109

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Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
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Dear

## ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION – INSTRUMENT STERILISATION

I write in response to your request for information in relation to instrument sterilisation.

### Question:

1. Who conducts instrument sterilisation procedures at your trust? Is it in-house or privately contracted? If privately contracted, please identify the contractor.
2. Please provide compliance scores of any internal and external audits of your sterile services department conducted between 1 January 2022 and the most recent date available, including remedial actions taken.
  - a. Copies of any internal and external audits of sterile services departments between 1 January 2022 until the most recent date available, or the information contained in the reports.

### Answer:

Audits undertaken are not scored so we do not hold 'compliance scores' and within the audit there are non conformities rather than remedial actions.

Our HSDU Colleagues have advised that in order to provide copies this would involve a manual review of circa 140 detailed audit documents to redact sensitive information and/or staff names. This is a mix of archived paper and digital documents.

Alongside that number there would be further detailed reports to be reviewed for non conformities within these audits which takes up the number of reports involved to circa 420. The information is considered exempt under 10(4)(b) manifestly unreasonable.

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

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Mainpoint  
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common  
name of Lothian Health Board*



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