

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to outpatient appointments referred to another Health Board.

Question:

- In the calendar year 2025, the number of patients in your health board who have been sent to another health board for an outpatient appointment after being referred. Please break this down by the number sent to each different health board, the health board they were sent to, and the type of appointment.

In the calendar year 2025, the number of patients in your health board who have been sent to another health board for an outpatient appointment who had still waited over 12 weeks, over six months and over a year for that appointment following being referred.

Answer:

I am advised that the file published by PHS at the following link is the best place to find this information;

https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/37154/cross-boundary_flow_feb26.xlsx

This provides for New outpatient and Inpatient/day cases the number of patients resident in NHS Lothian and treated in another Board (and the same for all other Boards). It also provides info on the length of the patients wait to each Board.

This is more detailed than anything we could provide with local NHS Lothian information.

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.

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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



I hope the publicly available information 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. 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