

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MIXED SEX WARDS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mixed sex wards in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

1. In each hospital in this health board, how many wards are currently mixed sex? This would encapsulate wards where biological males and females share a hospital ward. Please provide as much detail as possible, including the hospital(s) and ward(s) in question.

### Answer:

The table below details the information you have requested for each of NHS Lothian's hospitals. Most wards consist of a number of single rooms and rooms of for instance 4, 6 or 8 beds which will be single sex rooms. Critical care areas and short stay wards for example the Emergency Department and the Acute Medical Unit are mixed sex areas.

Single and mixed sex wards, NHS Lothian			
Hospital	Specialty	Single sex	Mixed sex
East Lothian Community Hospital	Medicine for the elderly and rehabilitation	0	6
Ellen's Glen House	Medicine for the elderly	0	1
	Old age psychiatry	0	1
Ferryfield House	Medicine for the elderly	1	1
Findlay House	Medicine for the elderly	0	1
	Old age psychiatry	1	0
Midlothian Community Hospital	Medicine for the elderly rehabilitation	0	2
	Hospital Based Complex Critical Care / Palliative Care	0	1
	Hospital Based Complex Critical Care / Dementia assessment	0	1
	Older People's Mental Health assessment	0	1
Royal Edinburgh Hospital (East Lothian HSCP)	Neurorehabilitation	0	1

Royal Edinburgh Hospital	Inpatient clinical area	13	17
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Paediatrics	0	10
	Paediatric Critical Care	0	1
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	Medicine of the elderly	0	3
	Cardiothoracic	0	3
	Stroke	0	1
	Surgery	0	3
	Cardiac Critical Care	0	3
	General Critical Care	0	2
	Renal High Dependency Unit	0	1
	Clinical Neurosciences	0	3
	Orthopaedics	0	4
	General Medicine	0	2
	Renal	0	1
	Gastroenterology	0	1
	Transplant	0	1
	Gynaecology	1	0
	Maternity	1	0
	Neonatal Unit	0	1
St John's Hospital	Gynaecology	1	0
	Maternity	1	0
	Special Care Baby Unit	0	1
	Paediatrics	0	1
	Intensive Care Unit	0	1
	High Dependency Unit	0	1
	Medicine of the Elderly	0	1
	Acute General Medicine	0	1
	Orthopaedics	0	1
	Plastic Surgery	0	1
	Head and Neck	0	1
	Respiratory / Cardiac	0	1
	Gastroenterology / Endocrine	0	1
	Burns	0	1
	Stroke	0	1
Western General Hospital	Critical Care	0	1
	Surgical High Dependency Unit	0	1
	General Medicine	0	2
	Medicine of the Elderly	0	4
	Stroke	0	1
	Orthopaedics	0	1
	Respiratory / Cardiac	0	1

	Infectious Diseases	0	2
	Gastroenterology	0	1
	Urology	0	1
	Colorectal	0	1
	Breast	0	1
	Haematology	0	1
	Oncology	0	3
West Lothian	Mental Health	0	1
	Intensive Psychiatric Care	0	1
	Rehabilitation	0	1
	Older adult acute psychiatry	0	1
	Dementia Care	2	0
	Hospital Based Complex Critical Care, Palliative Care, Intermediate Care	0	1

## Question:

2. In 2025-26, has the health board been aware of any incidents in which single sex wards were occupied by both male and female patients due to operational pressures. I would define operational pressures as any incidents in which a surge in patient numbers or demand led to single sex wards being shared by both males and females.

## Answer:

Wards will have patients of both sexes, but each 4, 6 or 8 bedded room within the ward will be single sex. No incidents have been reported of single sex rooms being shared by male and female patients.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

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Cc: Chief Executive