

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AMMONIA TESTING**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ammonia testing in NHS Lothian.

**Question:**

Please provide monthly data for 2024 and 2025, as well as overall totals, regarding ammonia testing and sample rejection for the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Specifically, I am requesting:

1. Number of patients presenting to the hospital

**Answer:**

The table below details all Emergency presentations and all inpatient admissions to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, including transfers, during 2024 and 2025.

<b>Emergency and inpatient presentations to Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh</b>	
<b>Attendance / Admission date</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
Jan-24	13,661
Feb-24	13,162
Mar-24	13,931
Apr-24	13,666
May-24	14,616
Jun-24	13,766
Jul-24	14,173
Aug-24	14,479
Sep-24	13,755
Oct-24	14,339
Nov-24	13,304
Dec-24	13,285
Jan-25	13,267
Feb-25	12,569
Mar-25	14,203
Apr-25	13,955
May-25	14,753



**Headquarters**  
Mainpoint  
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*

Emergency and inpatient presentations to Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	
Attendance / Admission date	Number of patients
Jun-25	14,266
Jul-25	14,689
Aug-25	15,389
Sep-25	14,755
Oct-25	14,931
Nov-25	14,076
Dec-25	13,966

## Question:

2. Number of ammonia tests requested, broken down as follows: a) Adults in A&E; b) Paediatrics in A&E; c) Adults in inpatient wards (excluding A&E); d) Paediatrics in inpatient wards (excluding A&E)

## Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the attached spreadsheet according to the categories used for requesting. I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the spreadsheet, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

## Question:

3. Number of ammonia tests rejected by the laboratory

## Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. Ammonia requests are rarely rejected. Any unusual results where a pre-analytical issue is suspected - for example a delay in the sample arriving in the laboratory - is discussed with the clinical team when the result is reported.

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

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive