

Date 18/03/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11196

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NON-BRITISH CITIZENS TREATED

I write in response to your request for information in relation to non-British citizens treated

### Question:

- I am writing to obtain information about the number of non-British citizens treated by your trust. Please include the following for the previous 3 financial years (2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25)
  - The total number of non-British citizens treated in the previous 3 financial years.
  - The total cost of treating those patients
  - The total amount recovered from those patients
  - The total number of adults treated who did not have a NHS number in the previous 3 financial years
  - The total cost of treating those patients
  - The total amount recovered from those patients

### Answer:

I am advised that we only hold residency information not nationality information – so we cannot pull data based on the category of non-British citizens.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

We can provide information on the people who are not ordinarily resident and who we have invoiced for element of NHS care that is not provided free of charge if you would like this instead? Please let me know.

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*



I am sorry I cannot help further 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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