

Date 06/04/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11226

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ASYLUM SEEKERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to asylum seekers.

Question:

1. In 2024-25 and 2025-26, how much has been spent by this health board on providing healthcare services to asylum seekers? This would include, but is not limited to, spending relating to vaccinations, STI checks, general healthcare assessments etc.

Answer:

It is not possible to give a cost estimate for vaccination services or healthcare for one specific patient group. Inclusivity work for vulnerable populations is embedded within the Immunisation Programme within Lothian, and therefore associated spending cannot be separated out. This activity is not recorded in any way that would allow costs to be extracted.

Finance has not noted any asylum seekers payments for this period.

Question:

2. Could I also be provided with any correspondence (including emails, letters, phone calls, handwritten notes, WhatsApp messages or any other documents) between members of the health board and home office officials regarding the provision of healthcare for asylum seekers. Please provide correspondence between 1 October 2025 and 25 February 2026 inclusive.

Answer:

The NHS Lothian Immunisation Programme does not have any correspondence with the Home Office or any Home Office officials regarding the provision of healthcare for asylum seekers. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

I am sorry I cannot help further with your request.

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*



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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive