

Date 03/04/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11236

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MARTHA'S RULE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Martha's Rule.

Question:

- I am seeking information in relation to any local trials, pilot schemes or implementation activity within your Health Board area relating to Martha's Rule, Call for Concern or any patient- or family-initiated escalation of care mechanism.

Specifically, please provide the following information:

1. Whether your Health Board has, at any time since January 2023, undertaken, participated in, or planned:
  - a pilot
  - trial
  - test of change
  - local implementation of a patient- or family-initiated escalation of care process (including but not limited to Martha's Rule or Call for Concern).
2. If yes, please can you provide:
  - the name of the scheme or initiative
  - the dates it commenced and (if applicable) concluded
  - the clinical settings involved (e.g. acute, ward-based, specialty-specific)
  - whether the scheme was formal or informal.
3. Any evaluations, reports, data summaries or internal reviews produced in relation to such trials or initiatives.
4. Whether any data from such trials or initiatives was shared with:
  - the Scottish Government
  - NHS Scotland
  - Healthcare Improvement Scotland
  - any other national body.

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*



**Answer:**

I am advised that we have discussed Martha's Rule, however we have not actually done any pilot, trial or implementation work yet. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

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

Yours sincerely

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