

Date 03/04/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11243

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HAIR REMOVAL TREATMENT SERVICES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to hair removal treatment services.

Question:

1. Details of how NHS Lothian monitors and evaluates compliance with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty, in relation to the provision of NHS-funded hair removal treatment.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not [monitor or] evaluate how NHS-funded hair removal treatment services comply with the Equality Act 2010. Information not held. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

Question:

2. Any documentation relating to the rationale for this approach, and any alternative mechanisms used to ensure fair and equal treatment in terms of sex-based provision of treatment.

Answer:

No information is held explaining the rationale. All NHS Lothian services, where it is relevant to the performance of the public sector equality duty, must carry out an assessment of the equality impact of any proposed new or revised policies or practices on relevant protected groups. The results of the assessment must be taken into account when making decisions about whether to implement the proposed new policy or practice. NHS Lothian's Equality and Children's Rights Impact Assessment policy is available [here](#).

Question:

3. Copies of any Equality Impact Assessments, policies, guidance documents, or internal reviews relating to the commissioning or provision of NHS-funded hair removal treatment within the last ten years.

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:

No information held by the EHRTs Team. All the patients are referred to St John's Hospital us from the GIC, any patient coming from this route are not subject to the aesthetic exception referral protocol and as such are never refused treatment and all sent on for hair removal. These procedures are all funded by the NHS

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. 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