

Date 16/04/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11248

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MH WARDS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mental health ward cover.

Question:

- In your Health Board area, do you have any inpatient Mental Health Wards where there is **no on site** Resident Doctor medical cover during the Out of Hours period? If so, what provision do you make if there is a medical emergency/urgent situation?

Answer:

I am advised that we have resident cover 24/7 for all mental health wards except one Psychiatry of Old Age (POA) ward in Midlothian Community Hospital (MCH) and one in East Lothian Community Hospital (ELCH). Both are covered for psychiatric work by resident doc who will travel from the RIE site. ELCH has on site Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) cover. MCH has a mixture of ANP and Lothian Unscheduled Care (LUCS) input.

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. 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.

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*



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