

Date 06/04/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11278

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SMOKING CESSATION

I write in response to your request for information in relation to smoking cessation services that have been outsourced to external providers in the last five financial years (2019/20 - 2023/24).

Question:

1. A dataset listing all contracts awarded to third-party providers (e.g., private companies, charities, social enterprises) for the delivery of smoking cessation/public health tobacco control programmes, including provider name, contract value, start/end dates, and a summary of services procured.

Answer:

There were no contracts awarded to third-party providers during the last five financial years (2019/20 to 2023/24).

Question:

2. Full copies (with appropriate redactions for personal and/or commercially sensitive data) of all contracts, service specifications, and monitoring requirements for these outsourced smoking cessation services.
3. All procurement documents, including Invitations to Tender, evaluation criteria, scoring matrices, and tender evaluation reports relating to the selection of providers for outsourced smoking cessation programmes in the period requested.
4. Internal reports and briefing papers evaluating the performance, outcomes, and any risks/issues identified in relation to these outsourced services.
5. Minutes and agendas from all internal meetings (including any sub-committees or oversight groups) in which the commissioning, performance, or renewal of outsourced smoking cessation services were discussed within the timeframe specified.
6. Internal correspondence (including emails, memos, and meeting notes) between NHS Lothian Public Health Department staff and senior managers, as well as with the finance, legal, and procurement teams, pertaining to the procurement and contract management of these outsourcing arrangements.

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*

7. Copies of any correspondence between NHS Lothian and external providers/contractors regarding service delivery, performance concerns, contract variations, or financial matters.
8. Any policy reviews, audits, or impact assessments undertaken regarding the outsourcing of smoking cessation services, including any lessons learned or recommendations for improvement.
9. Financial records showing total annual expenditure by NHS Lothian on outsourced smoking cessation services for each of the past five years, and any related budgetary reports or savings analyses.

Answer:

Not applicable.

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.

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