

Date 01/05/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11131

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NON-MUSCLE-INVASIVE BLADDER CANCER

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Non-Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC).

Question:

- a. How many patients have been diagnosed with **Non-Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)** in your Trust the past 12 months?

	Number of Patients
All Bladder Cancer Patients (C67)	
Non-Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)	
Carcinoma in situ of the bladder (D0.9.0)	

- b. How many patients with Bladder Cancer are currently taking **Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)** therapy that was **initiated by the Urology** department?

	Number of Patients
Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) initiated by Urology	

- c. How many patients with Bladder Cancer are currently taking Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) therapy that was **initiated by the Oncology** department?

	Number of Patients
Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) initiated by Oncology	

- d. How many patients with Bladder Cancer are currently taking Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) therapy that was **initiated by a department other than Urology or Oncology** department?

	Department	Number of Patients
Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) initiated by another department (please specify)		

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



e. Which healthcare specialty is responsible for the **prescribing** of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) to patients with Bladder Cancer?

Healthcare Specialty	Yes / No
Oncologist	Yes
Urologist	Yes
Specialist Oncology Nurse	
Specialist Urology Nurse	
Other please specify	Uro-oncologist

f. Which healthcare specialty is responsible for the **administration** of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) to patients with Bladder Cancer?

Healthcare Specialty	Yes / No
Oncologist	Yes
Urologist	Yes
Specialist Oncology Nurse	Yes
Specialist Urology Nurse	Yes
Other please specify	Uro-oncologist

g. How many patients with Bladder Cancer have been BCG-unresponsive in the past 12-months?

	Number of Procedures
BCG-unresponsive	

h. How many patients with Bladder Cancer have received a combination therapy of BCG + Interferon + Gemcitabine in the past 12-months?

	Number of Patients
BCG + Interferon + Gemcitabine	

Answer:

I am advised that we cannot answer any of these questions. We cannot provide data concerning bladder cancer diagnoses (question a) for the specified time period as there is a natural lag in this data being collected in the cancer registry.

BCG is not prescribed through ChemoCare but issued through CMM (which will not have details of who initiated).

The BCG questions refer to “how many patients are currently taking” and we have no way of determining who is still actively on this therapy. None of the BCG drug files appear to be prescribable on HEPMA either, therefore we cannot even look at current inpatients with active Rx, and though we issue the stock on CMM, none of it is patient identifiable.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients and prescribing over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

- i. How many trans-urethral resection of bladder tumour (TURBT) procedures have been carried out in the past 12-months (OPCS code M32.6)?

Answer:

	Number of Procedures
Trans-urethral resection of bladder tumour (TURBT) procedures	9

Question:

- j. How many of the following cystectomy procedures in patients with Bladder Cancer have been carried out in the past 12 months?

Answer:

Procedure Code	Procedure Description	Number of Procedures
M34.3	Cystectomy NEC	61
M34.4	Simple cystectomy	5<

Counts of procedures taken from theatre data where the theatre date is between 01/02/2025 and 31/01/2026. The variable 'Procedure(s) complete with OPCS4 codes' was matched against the provided OPCS codes to get the final counts.

Question:

- k. Please provide a list of other Trusts or organisations that you refer patients to for Cystectomy

Answer

We do not refer externally.

Question:

- l. How many of the following bladder procedures have been carried out in the past 12 months?

Answer:

Procedure Code	Procedure Description	Number of Procedures
M49.4 + X72.2	Intravesical instillation of MMC	0
49.4 + X72.2	Intravesical instillation of BCG	0



M49.4	Intravesical instillation of IAluril/Cystistat	56
M42.3 + Y08.4	Laser ablation of bladder tumour (TULA)	5<

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the tables above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
 Cc: Chief Executive