

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PROCEDURE COSTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to commissioning patient procedures.

Question:

- Please provide total amount NHS Lothian has spent each year, from 2015 to 2025, on commissioning patient procedures from other hospitals - both NHS and private - to help reduce waiting lists.

Answer:

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019	2,785,019

This is spend for private hospitals from 2015 until 2025. The years above represent Financial Years. Please note that the 2025/26 spend is not complete as the M12 position has still not been finalised so it only represents incurred spend up to M11.

I am advised that the NHS side is not possible to extract from the finance ledger as it would all be wrapped up in the SLA’s.

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 SLA’s and finance ledgers 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.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

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





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