

Date 30/04/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11193

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PINEAL CYST**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to pineal cyst.

Question:

1. Diagnostic Metrics
  - a) Annual number of patients with a pineal cyst recorded on MRI (ICD-10 D35.4 or local equivalent).
  - b) Annual number of patients with a pineal gland lesions (all types)
  - b) If available, annual count of all brain MRI scans performed.

Answer:

ORDER ITEM	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
MRI Brain With and Without Gadolinium	56	36	49	33	38	28	51	20	22
MRI Head With Gadolinium	413	239	297	286	308	486	397	324	295
MRI Head	3776	3839	4269	4748	5251	5375	5919	6243	6978
MRI Head Functional	238	195	101	56	10	22	22	37	22
MRI Head With/without Gadolinium	617	733	838	990	1102	1299	1392	1647	1764
MRI Head Brain Perfusion Study	17	18	11	5<					5<

ORDER ITEM	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
MRI Brain With and Without Gadolinium	27	24	19	20	21	18	10	9
MRI Head With Gadolinium	400	348	307	337	758	786	567	458
MRI Head	7397	7487	5701	7265	7923	7863	7262	7357
MRI Head Functional	63	45	8	66	137	34	26	25
MRI Head With/without Gadolinium	1796	1789	1768	2189	1958	1855	2095	2207
MRI Head Brain Perfusion Study	5<	5<	34	124	162	146	119	10

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*



To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table 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).

Question:

2. Neurosurgery Referrals & Consultations

- a) Annual number of neurosurgery referrals for patients with a recorded pineal cyst diagnosis.
- b) Annual number of neurosurgery outpatient attendances for pineal cyst diagnoses.

3. Surgical Interventions

- a) Annual counts of surgical procedures for pineal cysts.
- b) Annual counts of surgical procedures for all pineal region lesions (including cysts and other pathology).
- c) Procedure classification codes (e.g., OPCS codes) used for these surgical treatments, if routinely recorded.
- d) counts of A&E admissions of patients with Pineal Cysts
- e) average waiting time for a scheduled pineal area lesion surgery (if possible broken down detailing type of intervention (e.g. extraction, fenestration, shunt etc. ) in each Trust

4. Co-Morbidities

For patients with ICD-10 D35.4 recorded, please provide annual counts of patients also recorded with:

- a) Neurological conditions (broad categories using ICD-10 nervous system chapters).
- b) Psychiatric conditions (broad categories using ICD-10 mental/behavioural chapters).

If existing aggregated summary tables of co-morbid conditions in pineal cyst patients are held, please include them.

5. Outcomes & Complications

If held, please provide annual aggregated counts for patients with ICD-10 D35.4 who have recorded:

- a) Death where pineal cyst is listed as a cause or contributing cause.
- b) Cyst rupture events recorded.
- c) Internal cyst bleeding / haemorrhage recorded.
- d) Aseptic meningitis recorded.
- e) Secondary parkinsonism recorded.
- f) any other co morbidity recorded.

Answer:

I am advised that this information is not held in a centrally extractable format. 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 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:

6. Most up to date relevant patient information leaflets/brochures/web pages being provided to the patients about the diagnosis of pineal cyst, treatment pathways, risks disclosure and patients' rights information

Answer:

None

Question:

7. Most up to date relevant radiological and treatment pathway guidelines for pineal cysts and differentiation diagnostic pathways and guidelines between pineal cysts and other tumours of pineal gland

Answer:

No established guidelines but patients are managed and followed-up if appropriate in a bespoke fashion, in accordance with best evidence practice

Question:

8. Any available information about number of Neurosurgeons trained in operating on pineal area lesions per each Trust

Answer:

There are 4 in DCN Neurosurgery.

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](http://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