

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MRI INCIDENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to MRI incidents.

Question:

1. Total number of reported MRI-related adverse events or safety incidents within your Trust.

Answer:

There were 144 adverse events reported under the Category MRI – Safety for the period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2025.

Question:

2. Where recorded, a breakdown of incidents by category. If available, examples may include:
 - o Patient burns during MRI scanning
 - o Projectile incidents involving ferromagnetic objects
 - o Non-MRI compatible equipment taken into the MRI scanner room (Zone IV)
 - o Damage to the MRI scanner or associated equipment
 - o MRI quench events
 - o Adverse events related to implants or devices
 - o Patient injury or near-miss incidents relating to MRI safety

Answer:

The below table details the number of adverse events reported under the Category MRI – Safety for the period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2025 broken down by Sub Category and Financial Year.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
MRI - Breach of MRI Local Rules	≤5	≤5	11	≤5	≤5
MRI - Equipment Failure	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
MRI - External Metallic Object becoming a Projectile	0	≤5	7	≤5	≤5
MRI - Non-declared internal or attached active MR Conditional or MR Unsafe	≤5	6	14	13	9

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

implant					
MRI - Non-declared internal or attached passive MR Conditional or MR Unsafe implant	≤5	≤5	≤5	7	≤5
MRI - RF Heating or Burn Adverse Event	0	≤5	≤5	0	0
Other - Please only use if no alternative	7	≤5	7	10	9

Question:

3. *Where recorded, please indicate:*

- *The number of incidents per year*
- *Whether the incident was classified as harm, no harm, or near miss*

Answer:

The below table details the number of adverse events reported under the **Category MRI – Safety** for the period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2025 broken down by Severity and Financial Year.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
No known adverse effect at this time	15	15	41	36	27
Harm to a person -minor	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0
Harm to a person -moderate	0	≤5	0	0	≤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).

Question:

4. *If available within existing records, please indicate whether incidents involved:*

- *Ferromagnetic equipment or objects entering the MRI scanner room*
- *Non-MRI compatible equipment brought into the MRI scanner room*
- *Damage to the MRI scanner*

Answer:

As per data in Question 2 above.

Question:

5. *Operational impact, where recorded:*

- *Estimated scanner downtime resulting from incidents (hours or days, if recorded)*
- *Whether the scanner required service intervention or repair*
- *Number of MRI scans cancelled due to incidents*
- *Number of patients rescheduled due to incidents*

Answer:

DCN / RHCYP	None
RIE	None
WGH	181 patients cancelled and rebooked due to the Quench event in 2025
SJH	None

Question:

6. *Financial impact, where recorded:*

- o *Any estimated cost of repair, servicing, or replacement*
- o *Any estimated operational cost associated with scanner downtime*

Answer:

For the WGH Quench incident in 2025, a mobile unit was put in place for 20 days, breakdown of costs below:

20 Days Cost	
Mobile Unit	£44,000
Contrast Agent	£2,780
Syringe Pumps	£2,160
IEP Imaging	£857
Generator	£3,957
Fencing	£1,100
Total	£55,254

I am sorry I cannot help further 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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive