

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SPINAL CORD INJURY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to spinal cord injury.

### Question:

- Of that yearly cohort, how many experienced a spinal cord injury as a result of their surgery (**or as a result of post op complications**) - includes but not limited to ischaemia of the spinal cord. Please can you share the annual number of TAAA cases including frozen elephant trunk that have been done between 2019 and 2025 and the number of cases of spinal cord injury.

### Answer:

Please find below the validated figures for the period 2019 to 2025 for the Scottish National TAAA & Aortic Arch service. These include TAAA cases and associated FET/ET/CTH procedures.

#### Over this period:

- Total TAAA cases: 318
- Total FET, ET & CTH cases: 102
- Total combined cases: 420

The number of patients with permanent spinal cord injury (permanent paraplegia) was 8. Due to the small numbers involved we cannot break this down any further. This is considered exempt under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – personal information.

The data has been extracted from the validated service dataset and aligned with procedural coding and clinical records to ensure accuracy

### Notes

- FET (Frozen Elephant Trunk): a hybrid procedure combining open aortic arch replacement with deployment of a stent graft into the descending thoracic aorta

- TAAA stands for thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysm
- ET (conventional Elephant Trunk): a staged open surgical technique used in complex aortic disease, typically as part of a planned multi-stage repair
- CTH (Complex Hybrid aortic Arch procedures): this includes hybrid arch procedures with full arch debranching and stented aortic interventions within the wider service dataset, it can also involve valve or root replacement.

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

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive