

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to surgical specialities.

Please provide the following information for your Trust/hospital site(s) for the most recent complete 12-month period available (please state the exact start and end dates used). If your data are only available at Trust level (not site level), please provide Trust-level figures and state this explicitly.

Surgical specialities in scope

Please report data separately for each of the following specialties (use the exact labels below):

1. Cardiothoracic Surgery
2. General Surgery (including: breast, colorectal, endocrine, upper GI, lower GI, and transplant—kidney, liver, pancreas)
3. Neurosurgery
4. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
5. ENT / Otolaryngology
6. Paediatric Surgery
7. Plastic Surgery
8. Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery
9. Urology
10. Vascular Surgery

If a specialty is not provided at your Trust/hospital site(s), please record 0 for that specialty and note “not provided”.

Question:

1. Workforce (headcount)  
For each specialty listed above, please provide:
  - i. Number of Consultant surgeons (substantive/headcount)
  - ii. Number of SAS surgeons (headcount) (i.e., Specialty Doctor and Specialist grades)Please provide headcount (not WTE). If you can only provide WTE, please state that clearly.

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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*

Answer:

<b>Surgical Specialty</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>WTE</b>
Cardiothoracic Surgery	6	5.9
ENT/Otolaryngology	18	17.1
General Surgery	55	50.9
Neurosurgery	10	9.9
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	3	2.9
Paediatric Surgery	2	2.0
Plastic Surgery	20	18.2
Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery	30	29.0
Urology	19	18.7
Vascular Surgery	8	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>161.8</b>

<b>Surgical Specialty</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>WTE</b>
Cardiothoracic Surgery	6	6.0
General Surgery	4	4.0
Neurosurgery	5	5.0
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	8	5.4
Plastic Surgery	2	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22.4</b>

Data correct as of February 2026.

Please note Consultant Surgeons can work across more than one specialty. For example, the number of paediatric surgeons may be lower due to consultant surgeons being coded under a different specialty (e.g., Trauma & Orthopaedics).

Question:

2. Population served

Please provide the total population served by your Trust/hospital (the figure you use for planning/catchment), and specify the source/definition used (e.g., "ICS population", "catchment population", etc.).

Answer:

This is publicly available via - [Subnational Population Projections: 2022-based - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#).

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

Question:

3. Surgical admissions activity

Please provide the total number of admissions (elective + emergency combined) to all surgical specialties in scope (i.e., the combined total across the 10 specialties listed above) for the same 12-month period.

Answer:

National Specialty	Admissions
CARDIAC SURGERY	1,002
EAR, NOSE & THROAT (ENT)	3,781
GENERAL SURGERY (EXCL VASCULAR)	18,574
NEUROSURGERY	2,888
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY	1,111
ORAL SURGERY	141
PAEDIATRIC SURGERY	1,983
PLASTIC SURGERY	5,873
THORACIC SURGERY	1,130
TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY	9,733
UROLOGY	6,241
VASCULAR SURGERY	1,911

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