

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEVER EVENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to never events.

Question:

- My request relates to "never events" or "wrong-site operations" - described as a medical error where a procedure is performed on the wrong patient, the wrong body part, or the wrong side of the body.

Could you please provide the number of these incidents recorded and, where possible, the details involved in such incidents (ie what the identified error consisted of).

Could this request cover the following time periods and be broken down as such. 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not specifically define or collect data on 'never events'. 'Never events' are therefore not recorded separately on the DATIX system used to record all adverse events. Data has therefore been generated through a review of DATIX reports to identify such adverse events relevant to the FOI request, based on text search on the phrases provided by the requestor, that relate to the definition of a 'never event' as published by the NPSA.

Phases search on:

Wrong part of body, wrong-site operation, wrong patient, wrong body part, wrong side of the body.

Since 2022 we monitor Adverse Events reported where the Severity is reported as Major Harm or Death, and for these adverse events, we note if the Adverse Event meets the above definition of a "Never Event", however, none were identified that meet the criteria of the request.

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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*

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. 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
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Cc: Chief Executive