

Date 24/04/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11329

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ABORTION

I write in response to your request for information in relation to abortions.

Question:

1. The number of patients for whom your organisation has arranged, funded, or reimbursed travel outside Scotland (including to England) for abortion services.

Answer:

There were 19 patients.

Question:

2. The number of patients referred to independent sector providers, such as, but not limited to, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, for abortion care. Where possible to name the provider, please do.

Answer:

There were 19 (to British Pregnancy Advisory Service).

Question:

3. The total annual amount paid by your organisation to independent sector providers for abortion services. If possible, please distinguish between:
  - Procedure/treatment costs
  - Administrative or contractual fees

Answer:

British Pregnancy Advisory Service does not invoice separately for administrative or contractual fees, these are assumed within treatment costs. Please see table below regarding procedure/treatment costs incurred by NHS Lothian.

Question:

4. The total annual cost incurred by your organisation in funding or reimbursing:

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*



- Patient travel (e.g. flights, rail, taxis)
- Accommodation
- Subsistence or related expenses

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not pay for subsistence or related expenses. Please see table below regarding travel and accommodation costs.

1 January 2024 to 1 January 2025: Lothian patients referred to British Pregnancy Advisory Service	Procedure / Treatment costs	Travel and accommodation
Number of patients 19	£34,376.68	£6700.61

Question:

5. Please confirm whether your organisation centrally records:
- The number of patients travelling outside Scotland for abortion care
  - The total cost associated with such cases

Answer:

NHS Lothian centrally records numbers of patients travelling outside of Scotland for abortion care and the total cost associated with such cases. The data is held by the NHS Lothian Safe Haven Office for out-of-area referrals. NHS Lothian does not hold any information relevant to your request that is subject to exemption from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

NHS Lothian cannot provide the raw data in spreadsheet format as this contains patient identifiable data. 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).

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