

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAESAREAN SECTION

I write in response to your request for information in relation to caesarean sections.

Question:

- The number of caesarean section procedures performed in NHS Lothian?

Answer:

Year	Deliveries
2021	3,052
2022	2,967
2023	3,378
2024	3,562
2025	3,440

Question:

- The number of Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) associated with these procedures
SSI rates for:
 - Day-10 surveillance window
 - Day-30 readmission surveillance, if collected

Answer:

I am advised that Mandatory C. section surgical site surveillance was suspended by Scottish Government in March/April 2020 **and has not yet restarted** (i.e. not currently mandatory). This is confirmed in the last published [ARHAI quarterly epidemiological report \(Q4 2025\)](#)

NHS Lothian are awaiting confirmation on the mandatory surveillance programme requirements for 2026-2027 but we expect this to be delayed until after the election.

Headquarters
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Edinburgh EH3 9DN

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
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive