

Date 06/05/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11332

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ASTLEY AINSLIE HOSPITAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the Astley Ainslie Hospital site.

Question:

- Any recorded decision, report, minute or approval confirming whether the site, or any part of it, is intended to be sold or otherwise disposed of.
- Any recorded information showing the key decision points or approvals still required before the site can be marketed or sold.
- Any recorded information showing whether NHS Lothian is considering applying any conditions, restrictions or obligations to a sale of the site, including any requirements relating to future community, care or healthcare use.
- Any recorded information showing whether NHS Lothian has entered into or approved any exclusivity arrangement, preferred bidder arrangement, heads of terms, or similar pre-sale agreement with any third party in relation to the site.

Answer:

I am advised that it is a long stated policy of the Board from about 15 years ago to empty the Astley Ainslie Hospital (AAH) site, there was a strategic document at the time which was ratified by the Board. The original is no-longer available but was superseded with this - <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/strategies/>

In addition the Board has approved the sale of a small plot of land to a neighbouring property, however as the deal is still in negotiation and being looked at by the Central Legal Office (CLO) we would consider this Commercial and in Confidence at this time.

Section 33(1)(b) – Substantial prejudice to commercial interests. Information is exempt under section 33(1)(b) if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person. “Person” includes a public authority, company and partnership.

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*

For other aspects of any potential disposal we abide by the Scottish Property Transactions Handbook:

[Scottish Government Health Directorates Capital and Facilities Division](#)

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.

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