

Dear

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BRAIN TUMOUR SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to brain tumour surgery.

Question:

1. Does your Trust perform neurosurgical brain tumour surgery or biopsy on-site?(Yes/No):

Answer:

Yes

Question:

2. For patients undergoing brain tumour surgery or biopsy under your Trust's care, does the usual clinical pathway provide access to facilities that place brain tumour tissue into a fresh-frozen state within at least 30 minutes of excision?  
(Yes / No / Not applicable)

Answer

Yes

Question:

3. If Yes, is this access:  
a) On-site within your Trust.  
b) Off-site/external.  
c) Both.

Answer

a.	Yes
b.	No
c.	No

Question:

4. If off-site/external, please name the organisation or type of facility used.
5. For each year, approximately how many patients underwent surgery or biopsy for a brain tumour / brain cancer at your Trust?

Answer

Approximately 120 glioma patients per annum and 80 skull based tumours per annum.

Question:

6. For each year, approximately how many brain tumour tissue specimens were handled by your pathology service?

Answer

We receive a sample from every case operated on, so roughly 120 Glioma cases and 80 skull based cases.

Question:

7. For each year, how many of these specimens were fresh-frozen:
  - a) within any time frame?
  - b) within 30 minutes?

Answer

a.	Approximately 60% of all cases.
b.	As above, approximately 60% of all cases.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive