

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BASIC LIFE SUPPORT COURSE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Basic Life Support course.

Question:

1. Is Basic Life Support course mandatory for the medical professionals working for the Health Board?
2. How many courses per year does your Resus Training Department deliver?
3. What percentage of doctors/nurses/midwives and other allied health professionals have done BLS training in the last 1 year?
4. What percentage of your medical personnel have profession specific Advanced Life Support (ALS) training?
5. What is the required frequency for mandatory BLS training?
6. What strategies or measures has the trust adopted to encourage annual BLS training for medical professionals with patient facing duties (no pay progression if mandatory training not completed, departmental sessions, ESR alerts, managerial supervision of mandatory training etc)?
7. Does the organisation require resus teams to have Advanced Life Support training?

Answer:

1.	Our Resuscitation Service does not have access to Medical Job descriptions or contracts to be able to confirm, and this information is not held in a centrally extractable format. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost. Training opportunities are made available to all medics.
2.	In 2025 - 1,109 courses were offered

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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





3.	A target of 80% is sought. Within service capacity during 2025, 91% of organisational need was available. Taking into account DNA's in 2025 69% of clinical staff attended face to face training. Some training sessions are multidisciplinary and some medics will travel to other local health boards to undertake advanced training as part of partnership working.
4.	Unable to answer as per Q1. However, in Scotland all FY2's still undertake an ALS course during their training as supported by the Scottish Deaneries.
5.	Mandatory training is recommended annually. Face to face 1 year, e-learning the next year, rotational.
6.	Unable to answer as per Q1
7.	It is advised where appropriate but may not always be possible depending on where medics may be in their training programme. By default Anaesthetics and Acute Medicine Registrar posts will have ALS training along with Resuscitation Officers/Practitioners. Other team members may have ALS or ILS.

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