

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MSK PHYSIO SERVICES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to MSK physio services.

Question:

- Could you please tell me the full time equivalent staff and banding of your msk physio department before integration of flok and now?

Answer:

Sum of WTE - NHS Lothian Physiotherapy Adult MSK (excluding known non-spinal specialist MSK)						
	Band 2-4 group	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8 group	Total
Physio MSK June 2024	7	24	46	67	10	154
Physio MSK April 2025	5	28	45	69	11	158

Important notes:

The FOI has asked for WTE staff and banding of "msk physio dept" before and after the integration of Flok. There are some important clarifications to consider in the response:

1. Flok was integrated as a pilot in NHS Lothian, only for an 8month period (27.07.24 - 02.04.25)
2. Any staffing changes noted before, during or after this period are not related to the pilot of Flok
3. The Flok pilot was for adults patient with low back pain. However, NHS Lothian MSK physiotherapy services assess and treat patients with a wide range of MSK symptoms. Where possible, the wte of staff who deliver 'known non-spinal' services are not included in this FOI.
4. NHS Lothian does not have a musculoskeletal (MSK) physiotherapy department as such. The following is a list gives an overview of structures
 - 4a) Out-patient MSK physiotherapy services are provided in 6 operating divisions in NHS Lothian (4 Health and Social Care Partnerships, Acute, and Corporate)
 - 4b) NHS Lothian MSK physiotherapy services have both public-facing and staff occupational

health services.

4c) All NHS Lothian MSK physio services use pathways approaches in a range of service models:

first point of contact (direct access at primary care within numerous GP surgeries, and with telephone access points),

self-referral in community clinics,

delivery in hospital sites,

and integrated msk physiotherapy services with secondary care orthopaedics, neurosurgery etc.

5. Some of these physiotherapy services are not exclusively adult MSK (e.g. women's health and continence services, pain management services, some mixed Children's and Young People, and some exclusively services with Children and Young People). Where possible, the wte of these staff are not included in the FOI as these are not likely to be relevant to Flok.

6. Band 8 MSK physio staff roles vary and are not always clinical: Some are service leads, some are clinical leads, some have a clinical component of their role, whereas some have no clinical component. Non clinical components include wider professional and multi-specialty roles.

7. Band 7 MSK physio staff roles vary: Some are at advanced practice level, whereas others have additional non-clinical roles including that of Team Lead. Whilst all Band 7 staff are likely to have a clinical component, there is variation in proportion.

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Exclude non-Physiotherapy sub-job family

Exclude staff bank

Exclude CYP exclusive

Exclude nonMSK services

Exclude specialist non-spinal MSK services

Exclude distinct specialist non-MSK services delivered within an overarching MSK service

Physio MSK (includes primary care, out patient MSK, interface spinal MSK, Occupational Health MSK)

Rounded to 1wte. Grouped to a minimum of n=5 to retain confidentiality

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