

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CATERING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to catering.

Question:

1. Catering provision
 - For each hospital site, whether catering is:
 - provided in-house, or
 - outsourced (and to which provider)

Answer:

Site	Provider: Patient Catering	Provider: Non Patient Catering/retail
The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	External: Equans	Provided in-house: Aroma Café
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outsourced Equans (Dining room, Vite, Link Bridge Café, Jex Black Suite Café and Coffee bar) • Starbucks • M&S • WHSmith
The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Provided in-house	Outsourced: Scran Academy Café
St John's Hospital	Provided in-house	Provided in-house: NHS Lothian (Dining room and Howdens Café)
		Outsourced: WHSmith
Western General	Provided in-house	Provided in-house NHS Lothian (Dining room, baguette bar and Aroma

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

Hospital		Café, Anne Ferguson Cafe/Shop, Edinburgh Cancer Centre Shop)
Royal Edinburgh Hospital	Provided in-house	Provided in-house NHS Lothian (Dining room)
Astley Aisnlie Hospital	n/a	Provided in-house NHS Lothian (Dining room)
East Lothian Community Hospital	Provided in-house	Provided in-house NHS Lothian (Dining room)
		External Supplier: RVS café
Mid Lothian Community Hospital	Provided in-house	

Question:

2. Outsourced contracts

Answer:

The following leases apply

Site	Use	Tenant	Duration of Lease	Start Date	Expiry
The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	Various contracts - see PFI contract document already published on the NHSL website				
Lauriston Building	Retail Unit	Space	1 Year then monthly	24/11/25	23/11/2026
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion	Retail Unit	Space	1 Year then monthly	1/06/25	31/05/2026
Royal Hospital for Children & Young People	Catering Unit	SCRAN Academy	3 Years then yearly	9/07/2025	08/07/2026
St John's Hospital	Retail Shop	WH Smith	10 Years	19/06/2023	18/06/2033

Scran Academy also have a Memorandum of Understanding for the cafe enterprise at Comely Bank. This began in 2019 and has been renewed year on year since.

Question:

3. Governance

- Names of committees or groups responsible for overseeing catering services

Answer:

NHS Lothian work in line with Food in Hospital standards (FiHS) – NHS NSS nutritional standard [Food in Hospitals \(2026\) Specification \(SHFN 04-01\) | National Services Scotland](#)

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.

The following groups are responsible for overseeing catering services:

NHS Lothian Estates and Facilities –

- Senior Management Team/Heads of Service
- Soft FM Area Managers
- Catering and Retail Group

- The Lothian Nutritional Care Group
- NHS Scotland Catering Services Expert Group
- NHS Scotland Facilities Managers Advisory Group

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