

Date 12/05/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11402

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SHARED CARE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to shared care.

Question:

- I refer to the guidance issued by Dr Sharon Smith, Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director, REAS Community Psychiatry, dated September 2024, where she discusses "Queries from patients regarding 'shared care'". In it, Dr Smith stated as follows:

"The private clinics ask the GPs if they are willing to enter into a shared care agreement with themselves for specific patients and this is at the GP's discretion but the majority decline to do so until the patient is in local NHS secondary care services."

In accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please provide me with all information held by NHS Lothian which was relied upon to make this assessment that the "majority decline".

Answer:

I am advised that this was based on feedback to Dr Smith from discussion with GP-subcommittee local negotiating committee (LNC) leaders.

The vast majority of GP practices in Lothian are independent contractors and make their own decisions about accepting shared care agreements. Information regarding these Share Care Agreements (SCAs) is not held by Primary Care Contracts Organisation (PCCO).

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

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
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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*



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