

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENDER IDENTITY CLINICS**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to gender identity clinics.

**Question 1: Average waiting time for gender reassignment surgery (between being listed for surgery and having first surgery) for the last five years of available data. Could this please be broken down into types of surgery**

**Question 2: Number of individuals awaiting gender reassignment surgery after being listed for surgery for the last five years of available data.**

**Question 3: Total waiting time for gender reassignment surgery from GP referral to having first surgery for last five years of available data.**

**Question 4: The number of gender reassignment procedures done on average per week referred from your region, according to centre for the last year of available data (just one figure is fine).**

Answer: NHS Lothian does not hold the requested information. This is because NHS Lothian is responsible for assessment and referral only. Once a patient is referred for surgery, their care is managed by national services and/or surgical providers.

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, we confirm that this information is not held by NHS Lothian.

**Question 5: The number of individuals wishing to retransition following their surgery per year for the last 5 years of available data.**

Answer: NHS Lothian does not hold this information in a readily accessible or extractable format.

Although some relevant information may be held within individual patient records, in order to provide the information requested it would be necessary to manually review a large volume of records over the specified period.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to comply with a request where the cost of doing so would exceed £600. We consider that the time and resources required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed this cost limit, and therefore we are unable to provide the information.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive