

Date 08/06/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11479

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OPHTHALMIC SUPPORT STAFF

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ophthalmic support staff.

### Question:

- This FOI request is for information about the numbers of ophthalmic support staff working in Eye / Ophthalmology departments in NHS Hospitals, their pay scales and their education and training. *We request that you enter information into the attached table.*

Ophthalmic support staff are not registered professionals and have a range of job titles. The list below is not inclusive, and the job titles may include “Senior”, “Clinical” and “Healthcare Science”

Healthcare Assistant  
Ophthalmic Assistant  
Orthoptic Assistant  
Ophthalmic Technician  
Ophthalmic Science Practitioner  
Ophthalmic Associate Practitioner  
Ophthalmic Assistant Practitioner

### Answer:

Please see enclosed response.

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

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*



[www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://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  
Enc.

## FOI survey of ophthalmic support staff education and training

From: NHS Lothian

For each category of staff please provide the following information:

Job title* (specify)	No of staff	Pay bands (state 2, 3, 4 etc)	Education and training** Please ✓ or add details as appropriate	
Orthoptic Assistant/Visual Field Technician	8	3	In house	<p>Completion of training and competency training programme under guidance of registered Orthoptists/Visual Field Team Lead. Includes Visual field assessment-automated/kinetic-neurological and low vision; adult and paediatric visual acuity assessment; eye pressures; focimetry-manual &amp; automated;lens transposition. Some staff have specific competencies to support orthoptic staff e.g. making of orthoptic prism bar exercises. Signed competencies in staff file and repeated every 24 months or sooner if required Staff meetings- Orthoptics and Field team for shared learning. Undertake Corporate Induction and keep up to date with e-learning for clinical staff within protected learning time.</p>
			CPD	Turas learn and practical learning relevant to clinical role-life support,fire safety, manual handling, TRAK training.
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	Orthoptic professional body and NES and NHS Lothian allied health professional support/ CSW staff CPD sessions shared/encouraged.
Senior Visual Field Technician	1	4	In house	<p>Completion of training and competency training programme under guidance of registered Orthoptists/Visual Field Team Lead. Includes Visual field assessment-automated/kinetic-neurological and low vision; adult and paediatric visual acuity assessment; eye pressures; focimetry-manual &amp; automated;lens transposition. Some staff have specific competencies to support orthoptic staff e.g. making of orthoptic prism bar exercises. Signed competencies in staff file and repeated every 24 months or sooner if required</p>

				Staff meetings- Orthoptics and Field team for shared learning. Undertake Corporate Induction and keep up to date with e-learning for clinical staff within protected learning time
			CPD	Turas learn and practical learning relevant to clinical role-life support, fire safety, manual handling. TRAK training course. Clinical Support Worker (higher level) e-learning. Quality Improvement e-learning. Recruitment e-learning module. Courageous Conversations e-learning module. Navigating Communication Challenges in Clinical Practice in house training course.
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	Orthoptic professional body, NES and NHS Lothian allied health professional support staff CPD sessions shared/encouraged.
			In house	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	
			In house	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	
			In house	
			CPD	
			External course, include title and course provider	
			Other (please describe)	

\*Job titles, see list below, job titles may include "Senior", "Clinical" and "Healthcare Science"

- Healthcare Assistant
- Ophthalmic Assistant
- Orthoptic Assistant
- Ophthalmic Technician
- Ophthalmic Science Practitioner
- Ophthalmic Assistant Practitioner

- Ophthalmic Associate Practitioner
- Other, please specify

**\*\*Education and training**

- In house i.e. provided solely by the employer in the workplace
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses documented by a certificate of attendance
- External courses with a curriculum, learning outcomes and documented assessment of knowledge and/or competence. Please provide course title, and the name of the organisation / institution providing the course.
- Other education and training not listed above