

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to under 18s and mental health.

**Question:**

1. I would like to know the number of under 18's who have self-presented and have been referred to hospitals/facilities by Health Care Professionals in the health board area for Mental Health concerns/incidents, including self-harm, overdoses, suicide attempts.

**Answer:**

Due to data recording within A&E we are unable to ascertain information on reasons for attendances across all NHS Lothian sites. We would be required to manually look through the Electronic Patient Record system.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

**Question:**

2. I would also like to know how many under 18's have been admitted to Adolescent/Young People facilities in the health board area. Please provide the total figures for the following years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026.

**Answer:**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of Children and Young People Admitted to a Mental Health Ward	113	96	73	80	73	63	19

NB: Data includes all <18s admitted to a MH ward in NHS Lothian. 2026 includes up to the end of April 2026.

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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





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](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