

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MEALS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patient and staff meals.

Question:

- Please provide the following information for the three most recent financial years for which complete data are held (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, or the latest equivalent three-year period):
1. The total number of patient and staff meals served across all premises and facilities managed by your health board (including acute hospitals, community hospitals, mental health facilities, and any other catering services).

Answer:

Patient meals detail has already be provided in response 9435 - [Microsoft Word - 9435 Food Waste December 2024](#) with the table updated for 2024 as below as this did not include figures for November and December.

Year	St John’s Hospital	Western General Hospital
2022	391,750	661,166
2023	411,693	276,864
2024	416,069	167,160

We do not record numbers of staff meals purchased via retail catering outlets/dining room facilities.

Question:

2. The number and/or proportion of those meals that were supplied as halal (i.e. using halal-certified meat or prepared to halal dietary standards). Please break this down by facility type or site where possible (e.g. main acute hospital, community hospitals, other).

Answer:

All Fresh Butcher meat is purchased through a National Procurement contract agreement. All suppliers have confirmed that they do not supply Halal Meat to NHSS.

Question:

3. The total expenditure on food provision (patient meals, staff canteens, and any other catering) across your health board facilities.

Answer:

2023/24	£10,613,171
2024/25	£10,323,346
2025/26	£10,350,795

Question:

4. The expenditure specifically on halal food or halal-certified meat/ingredients. If exact halal spend is not recorded separately, please provide the best available figure or estimate and explain the basis.

Answer:

As above - all Fresh Butcher meat is purchased through a National Procurement contract agreement. All suppliers have confirmed that they do not supply Halal Meat to NHSS

Question:

5. Any available data on the number of halal meal requests or uptake rates from patients, staff, or visitors.

Answer:

This is not something which is recorded and held centrally

Question:

6. Copies of any current policies, guidelines, procurement frameworks or contracts that relate to the provision of halal or other religious dietary requirements in patient and staff catering.

Answer:

As above - all Fresh Butcher meat is purchased through a National Procurement contract agreement. All suppliers have confirmed that they do not supply Halal Meat to NHSS.

Question:

7. Any internal reports, assessments, equality impact assessments, or reviews produced since 1 April 2022 that discuss the provision, demand, or costs associated with halal food within the Health Board.

Answer:

No records held in relation to this.



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