

Date 18/06/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11518

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION –

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cyber security.

### Question:

- I would appreciate it if you could provide the following information for the period from 1 January 2020 to the present:
  1. The total number of cyber security incidents affecting your organisation, broken down by year.
  2. The number (or best estimate) of incidents involving network-connected medical devices within your organisation.
  3. A high-level breakdown of incident types (e.g. ransomware, malware, unauthorised access, denial of service).
  4. A high-level summary of operational impact (e.g. service disruption, delayed care, system downtime, device isolation).
  5. Any high-level trends observed over time.
  6. Any aggregated information on common causes or contributing factors.

### Answer:

NHS Lothian believe that by releasing this information into the public domain, we are providing information which will increase the risk of the organisations IT infrastructure being unlawfully targeted and penetrated by unnecessarily exposing information related to its current infrastructure . Organisations could use the information provided to then orchestrate focussed cyber attacks on NHS Lothian. Such attempts, if successful, would be likely to prejudice substantially the Board's ability to exercise a number of its purposes, but particularly those described under FOISA section 30(c) i.e., be likely to prejudice substantially effective conduct of public affairs. For this reason, we believe that the exemption under FOISA, section 30(c) applies to the information requested.

We acknowledge that any exemption applying under section 30 is also subject to the public interest test. We have therefore applied the public interest test and subsequently determined

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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*



that, in the context of this specific case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in disclosure of the information.”

I am sorry I cannot help 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