

Date 19/06/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11531

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to asbestos-related disease.

Question:

1. The total number of patients aged under 21 who presented, or were referred within your organisation with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of an asbestos-related disease, including but not limited to: mesothelioma, asbestosis, pleural plaques, pleural effusion attributed to asbestos exposure, or diffuse pleural thickening.
2. Please break this figure down by financial year. Where the number of cases in any given year is five or fewer, please state "<5" rather than the exact figure.
3. Please confirm whether your organisation holds any coded data for these conditions in patients aged under 21, even if no cases have been recorded during the period.

Answer:

I am advised that we do not hold any information to answer your request. No patients aged under 21 has been coded using the specific ICD10 code assigned in post-admission clinical coding.

There maybe information contained within individual patient records, but this is not centrally extractable and has not been coded as such. 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.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

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*



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