

Date 25/06/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11550

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – LIPOEDEMA

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Lipoedema.

Question:

1. How many Lipoedema clinics does NHS Lothian provide and what are the locations?

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not have a standalone Lipoedema service. The Lymphoedema service has not been established to treat Lipoedema.

Referral criteria based on current evidence was clarified and updated in July 2025 with no new referrals for Lipoedema being accepted. Prior to that a number of people had been referred to the Lymphoedema service for support with Lipoedema. These referrals are being supported with advice and self-management approaches.

Question:

2. How many hours per week is treatment offered at each clinic?

Answer:

As there is no service this is not applicable.

Question:

3. How many NHS staff provide treatment and the working hours per week for each, or the overall hours allocated for treatment staff for the service, if this is easier to provide?

Answer:

Not applicable.

Question:

4. What total budget is allocated to the treatment of lipoedema by NHS Lothian?

Answer:

Not applicable.

Question:

5. How many patients are currently registered to use the lipoedema treatment service?

Answer:

A small number of patients attending for lymphoedema management also have co-existing lipoedema, although lymphoedema remains their primary condition.

Question:

6. What is the recommended frequency for re-assessment or monitoring the progression of the condition in patients, seeing as lipoedema is not curable?

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not have agreed protocols for monitoring and reassessing Lipoedema.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive