

Date 7 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11579

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GMS CONTRACTS AND PMS AGREEMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to GMS contracts and PMS agreements.

Question:

- I would be grateful if you could inform me, for the last three complete years, and for the current year to date, of the number of general medical services (GMS) contracts and primary medical services (PMS) agreements that your Board has entered into, and corresponding payments, broken down by reference to the contractor eligibility categories which are set out, respectively, in sections 17L(1) and 17CA(1) of the NHS (Scotland) Act 1978.

In other words, for GMS contracts, I wish to be informed of how many are with

1. a medical practitioner
2. such other health care professional as may be prescribed
3. a qualifying partnership
4. a qualifying limited liability partnership, and
5. a qualifying company; plus corresponding payments

plus corresponding payments.

And for PMS agreements, I wish to be informed of how many are with

1. a medical practitioner
2. a health care professional (other than a medical practitioner)
3. a qualifying partnership
4. a qualifying limited liability partnership
5. a qualifying company, and
6. two or more of the persons mentioned in (1)-(5);

plus corresponding payments.

Answer:

Please find below the information held by NHS Lothian for the last three complete financial years to 31 March 2026.

1. Summary of Primary Medical Services

Contract Type	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	Payments 2025/26 (£m)	Payments 2024/25 (£m)	Payments 2023/24 (£m)
Section 17J (GMS)	95	94	92	160.0	143.2	129.0
Section 17C (PMS)	13	13	14	29.5	31.5	30.0
Section 2C (Health Board managed services)	6	8	9	10.0	11.3	12.6
Total	114	115	115	199.5	186.0	171.6

2. General Medical Services (Section 17J)

Contractor Category	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	Payments 2025/26 (£m)	Payments 2024/25 (£m)	Payments 2023/24 (£m)
Medical Practitioner (Single- handed)	0	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.06
Other Healthcare Professional	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Qualifying Partnership	92	92	91	153.8	140.0	128.94
Qualifying LLP	2	1	0	4.0	1.4	0.0
Qualifying Company	1	1	0	2.2	1.8	0.0
Total	95	94	92	160.0	143.2	129.0

3. Primary Medical Services (Section 17C)

Contractor Category	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	Payments 2025/26 (£m)	Payments 2024/25 (£m)	Payments 2023/24 (£m)
Medical Practitioner	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Healthcare Professional	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Qualifying Partnership	12	12	13	25.8	28.0	26.7
Qualifying LLP	1	1	1	3.7	3.5	3.3
Qualifying Company	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mixed Provider Arrangement	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	13	13	14	29.5	31.5	30.0

4. Health Board Managed Primary Medical Services

NHS Lothian directly managed the following number of S2c practices during the period requested:

Financial Year	Number of Health Board Managed Services	Annual Cost (£m)
2025/26	6	10.0
2024/25	8	11.3
2023/24	9	12.6

NHS Lothian holds no additional information falling within the scope of your request beyond that provided above.

You asked for information covering the current financial year to date. As the financial year runs from **1 April to 31 March**, the year-to-date information is broadly consistent with the 2025/26 position presented above. The only change since 31 March 2026 relates to the number of Health Board-managed practices (Section 2C), as one practice transferred to an independent contractor with effect from **1 April 2026**. Other than this change, the contractual arrangements and payment structures remain materially unchanged.

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