

Date 23 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11619

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MIDWIFERY SHIFTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to midwifery shifts.

Question:

- I am writing to request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 that the health board disclose all information it holds detailing how many midwifery shifts were left unfilled across its maternity and neonatal services after being put out for agency or bank cover by the health board over the course of 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26.

The disclosure should include, but not be limited to, a breakdown of the number of the midwifery shifts that went unfilled at individual hospitals in the health board's remit.

Answer:

Please see below table which includes the number of midwifery shifts left unfilled across maternity and neonatal services after being put out for agency or bank cover:

□

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	1,333	887	1,959
St John's Hospital	150	262	747
Community	219	346	1,070
Total	1,702	1,495	3,776

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