

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – UROLOGY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to urology in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Regarding the adoption of modern surgical technology within adult urology services, specifically regarding the treatment of phimosis and related conditions.

1. Does the Health Board utilize disposable circular stapling anastomat devices (e.g., ZSR, CircCurer, or generic automated stapling equivalents) for adult therapeutic procedures?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

2. If yes, please specify the preferred mechanism of the device used (e.g., pistol-grip or dual-handle/scissor-grip construction).

Answer:

Dual grip.

Question:

3. What is the average theatre time allocated for a traditional hand-sutured procedure versus an automated stapler procedure for adult patients?

Answer:

Approximately 30 minutes by hand, and 15 minutes for stapler plus some hand held.

Question:

4. Are these procedures performed in a Day Case unit/community setting or a Main Operating Theatre under general anesthesia?

Answer:

These are major cases carried out in Main Theatre.

Question:

5. In accordance with the Montgomery v Lanarkshire (2015) ruling, does the Board provide information to adult patients on the choice between traditional freehand surgery and automated stapling alternatives?

Answer:

No, the exact technique in each case is determined by the surgeon's experience and choice using the available evidence.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive