

Date 20 August 2026
Our Ref 11706

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADVERSE EVENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to adverse events.

Question:

Please provide the following information for each calendar year from 2019 to 2026 (most recent):

1. the number of Category I (Major or Extreme) Adverse Events that have been recorded.

Answer:

Note - we did not classify as Category 1 Significant Adverse Events until January 2020, hence no data is provided for 2019. The data below is broken down by Level 1 SAE Review and Calendar Year 01/01/2019:13/07/2026 (Date of FOI).

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Level 1 SAE Review	86	86	116	87	81	54	28

Question:

2. please provide detail, where available, on the incident/ event type, location speciality related to the incident/ event (e.g. Emergency Department).

Answer:

The tables below is the total number of Level 1 Significant Adverse Events broken down by type (Main Category) and by Service.

Level 1 (Category 1) Adverse Events - by 'Type'	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Absconsion	0	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5
Accidental Removal - Lines/Tubes/Drains	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Anaesthetic Issues	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0
Choking/Inhalation/Aspiration	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0	0
Collapse/Cardiac Arrest	≤5	6	8	6	≤5	≤5	≤5
Delays/cancellations	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	9	≤5	≤5
Diagnosis failure	14	10	7	9	11	6	7
Discharge	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0
Endoscopy Issues	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0

Level 1 (Category 1) Adverse Events - by 'Type'	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Expected Death	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	≤5
Falls - Patient	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0
Gynaecology	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0
Infection Control	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0
Information Technology	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0
Laboratory External	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	0
Laboratory Internal Only	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	0
Laboratory problem	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	0
Manual handling	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maternity Issues	10	10	11	9	9	7	≤5
Medical devices & equipment	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0
Medication	≤5	≤5	10	≤5	≤5	≤5	0
Neonatal	9	9	18	17	12	9	≤5
Other - please only use if no alternative	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0
Pressure Ulcer	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Public Protection	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Self harm	20	17	20	7	6	≤5	≤5
Staffing Issue	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0	0
Substance abuse	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0
Surgery	6	≤5	7	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Transfer	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0
Transfusion	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0
Treatment problem	≤5	0	6	≤5	0	≤5	≤5
Unexpected Death	7	9	7	7	10	7	≤5
Violence/aggression/other unwanted behaviours	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0

Level 1 (Category 1) Adverse Events - by Service	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Accident & Emergency	≤5	≤5	11	≤5	6	0	≤5
Acute Medicine	≤5	6	≤5	7	≤5	≤5	≤5
Anaesthetics	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	0
Burns/Plastics	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	≤5	0
Cancer Services	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5
Cardiology	≤5	0	0	≤5	≤5	0	0
Cardiothoracic	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
Children's Services	6	≤5	7	8	≤5	≤5	≤5
Colorectal	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Critical Care	≤5	≤5	6	≤5	≤5	≤5	0

Level 1 (Category 1) Adverse Events - by Service	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Dermatology	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes & Endocrinology	0	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0
EDI - Restorative	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh Community Nursing - District Nursing	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0
Edinburgh Population and Premises - South Premises	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0
EL Care Home Team	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL Intensive Home Treatment Team	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0
Endoscopy	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
Forensics	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Gastroenterology	0	0	≤5	0	0	≤5	0
General Medicine	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
General Surgery	6	≤5	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5
Health Care Public Health - Immunisation	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	0
HMP Addiewell	≤5	≤5	0	0	0	≤5	0
HMP Edinburgh	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0
Immunisation Programme	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Laboratories	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
Learning Disabilities - Inpatient Services	0	≤5	0	0	0	0	0
Lothian Unscheduled Care Service (LUCS)	≤5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major Trauma Service	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0	0
Medicine for the Elderly	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0
Mental Health & Substance Use	23	17	22	7	6	8	≤5
Midlothian Community Hospital (Loanesk/Edenview/Glenlee)	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Midlothian Joint Mental Health Team (includes IHTT)	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0
Musculoskeletal	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Neurosciences (DCN)	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0
Ophthalmology	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	0
Outpatient Services (includes ELCH LB RIE StJ WGH)	0	≤5	0	0	0	0	0
Podiatry	0	0	0	0	≤5	≤5	≤5
Radiology	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5
Regional Infectious Diseases Unit (RIDU)	0	0	0	0	≤5	0	0
Renal	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
Respiratory	0	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	0
Stroke Medicine	0	0	≤5	≤5	0	0	0

Level 1 (Category 1) Adverse Events - by Service	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Theatres	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
Transplant	0	0	0	0	≤5	≤5	0
Urology	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5
Vascular	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0
Women's Services - Gynaecology	≤5	≤5	≤5	6	7	≤5	≤5
Women's Services - Maternity	13	14	16	15	13	11	≤5
Women's Services - Neonatal	7	6	13	10	9	≤5	≤5

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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