

Date 20 August 2026
Our Ref 11721

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INCIDENT RESPONSE LEVELS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to incident response levels

Question:

1. In regards to the [National incident response levels: guidance for health boards](#), please provide the following information for each calendar year from 2019 to 2026 (most recent).

The number of times that your health board declared a: -

- i. Business Continuity Incident
- ii. Critical Incident
- iii. Major Incident

Answer:

i.	Business Continuity incidents are not 'declared' and as such are not recorded. Every department has a Business Continuity plan, parts of which may be used to deal with minor local problems. These are generally dealt with within the affected department and would be considered an extension to management of business as usual.
ii.	A Critical Incident was declared at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE) 2 January 2024. This was due to a large increase in patients presenting at RIE. The incident was resolved on 3 January.
iii.	A Major Incident was declared by NHS Lothian on 22 March 2023 due to the incident involving a ship which was in dry dock at Leith and shifted position. This resulted in 32 people having to be treated in a short space of time. The incident was stood down that evening.

Question:

2. In response to the answer to Question 1, please specify, where relevant, the i) reason for the incident being declared, ii) date(s), and iii) location (e.g. hospital, ward/department).

Answer:

No applicable – see above.

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