

Date 07 August 2026
Our Ref 11723

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GOLDEN HELLO PAYMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Golden Hello payments.

Question:

- Per bulletpoint 6 <https://www.publications.scot.nhs.uk/files/pca2018-m-03.pdf>
 1. May I ask how many so-called Golden Hello payments for new GPs at 2C and 17C practices have been made in your board area in 2025 and 2026 to date.
 2. Can you tell me the total amount for these payments in each year.

Answer:

During the 2025/26 financial year, NHS Lothian made a total of 10 Golden Hello payments:

- payments under the Recruitment and Retention (R&R) element of the scheme.
- payments under the Deprivation element of the scheme.

The total value of these payments was £82,188.

During the 2026/27 financial year to date, NHS Lothian has made five or fewer payment under the Deprivation element of the scheme, with a total value of £20,508.

HB Salaried GPs (2C practices)

NHS Lothian has not extended the Golden Hello Scheme to GPs working in Health Board (HB) salaried 2C practices.

There are no salaried 2C practices in NHS Lothian that are designated as remote and rural for the purposes of the Scheme. Therefore, no practices fall within the scope of PCA(M)(2019)14, and no Golden Hello payments have been made to HB salaried GPs under these provisions.

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