

Date 20 August 2026
Our Ref 11732

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TRANSGENDER INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to transgender information for children and teenagers.

Question:

- Please provide all relevant materials covering transgender information for children and teenagers. Please also provide details about how the materials were developed and commissioned and copies of minutes relating to this including relevant committees and scrutiny boards.

Answer:

On NHS Lothian's Healthy Respect easy to understand (ETU) website for young people there is a section on 'gender identity' explaining key concepts and language. It is targeted at any and all young people who want to better understand gender identity. You can access this information here [LGBT+ – Healthy Respect](#) (scroll down past 'sexual orientation').

The work for the ETU stemmed from a national programme of activity which designed materials to support the delivery of sexual health and wellbeing education to young people with learning disabilities (See [Home - RSHP](#)) on a 'Once for Scotland' basis (on behalf of a consortium of other Boards), ensuring the information developed was accessible and available to all.

This content was developed by the NHS Lothian Healthy Respect Team, in line with relevant local or national guidance. Individual team members produced content, which was reviewed within the Healthy Respect team before publication online.

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

- (1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

Please note that NHS Lothian has a policy of not releasing the names and details of staff and non-staff below a senior level. This is considered exempt under Section 38(1)(b) personal information.

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
Enc.

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: FOI request - 11732

Importance: High

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 12 January 2022 12:07

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Subject: SHBBV Recovery Plan Funding

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your bid for funding from the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses Recovery Plan. We are pleased to inform you that your bid for £20,000.00 to enable the development and delivery of sexual health digital resources and materials for young people with learning disabilities, has been successful. We will be in touch shortly to make arrangements for a transfer of funding and to set out reporting arrangements.

In the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses Policy | Health Protection Division | Population Health Directorate Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (she/her) [Why I share my pronouns](#)

Strategic Programme Manager (Edinburgh) 

Reset and Rebuild: Scottish Government Recovery Plan for Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

Funding application from:

NHS Lothian, Healthy Respect team

NHS Lothian, Young People's Sexual Health sub-group

Aim:

Contribute to improving the sexual health and wellbeing of young people aged 13-18 years with learning disabilities by ensuring they can access the same high-quality sexual health information as young people without a learning disability. We want to provide equal and equitable access to good quality, easy to understand sexual health information. All resources will be developed from a 'Once for Scotland' approach, and all digital resources will be available, free of charge, for use by all Boards supporting work with this population across Scotland.

Context:

Funding is sought to enable the development and delivery of sexual health digital resources and materials for young people with learning disabilities, these resources will be developed for use by the young people themselves. These would be hosted online as part of an ongoing piece of work within NHS Lothian on updating online content for young people and professionals, the web development company commissioned to undertake this work have provided advice and guidance on requirements for this enhanced element and are keen to be involved going forward. This is also part of an ongoing Quality Improvement project.

The overall website is being developed to meet WCAG 2.1 requirements (Website Content and Accessibility Guidelines). These guidelines state the responsibility of public bodies, like NHS Boards, to ensure information is available and accessible for all users.

We believe that resources created for the direct use of this audience do not exist in an easy to access digital format. These funds would enable us to undertake a piece of work, involving young people with learning disabilities in the testing and development of the digital resource, to fill this gap.

Reset and Rebuild clearly sets out the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on access to sexual health services and information across all populations. From our partnership working and evidence gathering we know this has been heightened for those with pre-existing vulnerabilities, including those with LD/ASN.

There is strong evidence of the increased vulnerabilities of young people with learning disabilities regarding sexual health, driven partly by the lack of clear and appropriate information that is available to them. This sits alongside gaps in education on sexual health delivered to this population of young people. The work we are seeking funding for will link with and complement two national initiatives linked to education and information – www.rshp.scot (curriculum for schools, including YP with mild/moderate LD/ASN), as well as a pilot project due to complete in January 2022 around resources for young people with complex learning needs, more information available at [Complex ASN \(Draft\) - RSHP](#) and [Learners aged 14+/16+ with additional support needs - RSHP](#).

The 'Our Bodies, Our Rights...' report by Engender (<https://www.engender.org.uk/files/our-bodies,-our-rights-identifying-and-removing-barriers-to-disabled-womens-reproductive-rights-in-scotland.pdf>) clearly outlines that a lack of decent information and education made available to women with learning disabilities plays a large part in their increased vulnerability and poor sexual health outcomes. This project would work towards improving this

picture. It also contributes to Outcome 1 in the SG 'Keys to Life' programme of work. As part of national work on sexual health education for young people with LDs, we have linked to the SG Gender-Based Violence national network and will ensure links continue as this work develops.

Outcomes:

- Digital content in multiple appropriate formats to meet the needs of young people with LD/ASN
- Web Press content available for free to other Boards
- Community involvement and testing of digital navigation, design and content
- Youth and community engagement in creation of content, such as educational and instructional videos on sexual health, e.g. how to a swab for STIs, how to put on a condom

	Activity	Timescale
1	Scope size and scale of website online development requirements with the web company, ensuring tech requirements are in place to support (including how to ensure other Boards/partners can access effectively at local level)	Dec 2022
2	Undertake three rounds of user testing and consultation on navigation and content	Dec until delivery of project (likely to be post March but funds allocated within timeframe)
3	Resources are launched and available online • This will include ensuring national colleagues are aware of the materials and know how to access them • All resources will be developed in a way which will enable other Boards, and partners, to use them at local level. Some materials will be amendable to suit local need, e.g. resources for signposting to local services	Project delivery date – likely to be post March as comms strategy will need to be developed
4	Indicative costs, which include: <i>(following discussions with web development company currently commissioned to undertake wider web development work):</i> • Research and development time £2000 • Creation of templates and coding on the website £5000 • Working with professional user experience testing company for a LD/ASN audience £5000 • Creation of digital assets such as animations/videos for content £8000	Total = £20,000 (incl. VAT)