

Date 30 September 2026
Our Ref 11733

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DERMATOLOGY PRESCRIBING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dermatology prescribing.

Question:

1. In the last 6 months (November 2025 to April 2026), how many adult patients were treated by the dermatology department, excluding patients referred for cancer/suspected cancer?

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Patients treated in dermatology, excluding cancer referrals, 1 November 2025-30 April 2026, NHS Lothian	
Month End	Patients treated
30/04/2026	1,926
31/03/2026	3,079
28/02/2026	2,420
31/01/2026	2,619
31/12/2025	3,211
30/11/2025	2,643

Question:

2. Do you run a specific clinic for patients with atopic dermatitis?

Answer:

No, there is not a specific clinic. Patients are seen at a dermatology outpatients clinic.

Question:

3. In the last 6 months (November 2025 to April 2026), how many adult patients with atopic dermatitis were treated by the dermatology department?

Answer:

This information is not held centrally. This is because there is not a separate patient pathway for patients with atopic dermatitis, diagnosis is not recorded for outpatient appointments. Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

4. In the last 6 months (November 2025 to April 2026), how many adult patients with atopic dermatitis were treated with the following products: a) Immunosuppressants (Azathioprine, Ciclosporin, Methotrexate, Mycophenolate mofetil, Pimecrolimus, or Tacrolimus); b) Abrocitinib; c) Baricitinib; d) Dupilumab; e) Lebrikizumab; f) Tralokinumab; g) Upadacitinib; h) Nemolizumab; i) Delgocitinib.

5. In the last 6 months (November 2025 to April 2026), how many adult patients with atopic dermatitis were started on the following products: a) Immunosuppressants (Azathioprine, Ciclosporin, Methotrexate, Mycophenolate mofetil, Pimecrolimus, or Tacrolimus); b) Abrocitinib; c) Baricitinib; d) Dupilumab; e) Lebrikizumab; f) Tralokinumab; g) Upadacitinib; h) Nemolizumab; i) Delgocitinib

Answer:

This information is not held centrally. This is because information on medication use is not linked to diagnosis information in the pharmacy prescribing system. Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

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