

Date 3 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11744

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BRONCHOSCOPY PROCEDURES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to bronchoscopy procedures.

Question:

1. Flexible Bronchoscopy Procedures

Please provide the **total number of flexible bronchoscopy procedures** performed across NHS Lothian during the **most recent full financial year**.

I request that this data be **broken down by**:

- **Hospital site**
- **Department / clinical area** (e.g., ICU, Respiratory, Theatres, ED, etc.)

2. Disposable Bronchoscope Expenditure

Please provide the **total spend on disposable flexible bronchoscopes** for the **last 12 months** (or most recent 12-month period available).

Again, please break this down by:

- **Hospital site**
- **Department / clinical area**

Answer:

Hospital	Operations
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	85
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	271
St John's Hospital at Howden	75
Western General Hospital	110
Grand Total	541

I am advised that we do not use disposable flexible bronchoscopes – Zero expenditure.

**Includes all Flexible Bronchoscopy procedures in the last full financial year 2025/26. Broken down by hospital*

**Cannot provide a clinical area breakdown*

The OPCS4 codes for Flexible Bronchoscopy procedures are as follows:-

E48.- Therapeutic fiberoptic endoscopic operations on lower respiratory tract.

E49.- Diagnostic fiberoptic endoscopic examination of lower respiratory tract.

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