

Date 21 August 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11759

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DRIVING ASSESSMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to driving assessments.

Question:

For the **12-month period immediately preceding the date of this request**, please provide:

- The total number of driving assessments completed.
- The number of assessments where the outcome was that the individual was assessed as:
 - fit to continue driving without restriction;
 - fit to continue driving subject to recommendations, restrictions or adaptations;
 - not fit to continue driving (or recommended to cease driving); and
 - any other outcome category used by the Service.
- If recorded, the percentage represented by each outcome category.
- If outcome data is recorded using different terminology, please provide the figures using the categories held by the Service together with an explanation of those categories.

Answer:

I am advised that we do routinely record assessment outcomes (albeit in slightly different categories to those in the letter). However, there is currently a backlog in recording this information electronically, as access to the bespoke patient database the service had previously been using was lost at the end of July 2025 due to an automatic I.T. update which was done in error. Work is on-going to resolve this.

In the meantime, outcomes are being recorded on an Excel spreadsheet as time allows, but we do not currently have complete information for the time period being requested, and to retrieve it would involve a significant amount of work (i.e. by looking out paper files on each patient).

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients and driving assessments over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

I am sorry I cannot help further 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