

Date 11 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11766

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OUTSOURCING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Outsourcing.

Question:

Part 1: Independent Sector Outsourcing and Frameworks

1. Independent Sector Expenditure:

Over the last two financial years (2024/25 and 2025/26), what has been the total financial expenditure by NHS Lothian specifically on outsourcing adult therapeutic circumcisions or phimosis-related procedures to Independent Sector Providers (ISPs) or private treatment centres?

2. National Framework Utilisation:

Does NHS Lothian utilise National Procurement Scotland (NSS) framework agreements or local independent sector contracts to commission capacity for adult elective circumcisions / phimosis-related procedures? If yes, what exact volume of patients requiring this specific procedure has been contracted or outsourced through these frameworks over the last 12 months?

3. Contracted Pathway Specifics:

Do any current outsourcing contracts with independent providers for adult circumcision mandate specific outpatient local anaesthetic (LA) pathways or modern device technologies (such as disposable circular staplers), or are procedures commissioned exclusively on a general-anaesthetic main-theatre basis?

Part 2: Internal Insourcing and Additional List Management

4. Weekend and Evening Insourcing:

Does the Board currently deploy internal "insourcing" teams (utilising existing NHS staff working additional evening or weekend shifts paid at enhanced rates) to clear the urology waiting list?

5. Insourcing Volume:

If internal insourcing is utilised, how many adult therapeutic circumcisions were performed via dedicated insourcing sessions over the last 12 financial months (June 2025 – June 2026)?

6. Capacity Modeling:

Given that NHS Lothian has confirmed a waiting list of 507 patients with a median wait time of 308.5 days (over 44 weeks) for therapeutic circumcision, what specific capacity modelling or recovery plan does the Board hold to bring performance back within the statutory 12-week Treatment Time Guarantee mandated by the Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011?

Part 3: Operational Bottlenecks and Theatre Utilisation

7. Ring-Fenced Ambulatory Capacity:

Has the Board evaluated or established any ring-fenced, dedicated ambulatory day-case slots for minor soft-tissue urological procedures outside of high-overhead main operating suites? If not, please provide the rationale explaining how a 507-patient queue is managed while maintaining traditional main-theatre constraints.

Answer:

1.	In 2024/25, there was activity with a total spend of £213,720.00. There has been no activity in 2025/26 to date.
2.	Not currently.
3.	Not applicable
4.	No insourcing contracts in place over this time period. EPO unable to provide any information on local High Impact List activity.
5.	Not applicable
6.	NHS Lothian does not have a specific recovery plan for circumcision procedures. The modelling for 2026/27 has identified a significant gap between capacity and demand in the Urology service. A number of recovery actions are being progressed which will support reduction in waiting times for circumcision patients including accessing treatment in other board areas, weekend additional theatre capacity and recruitment to additional consultant urology posts.
7.	At present there is a small amount of activity delivered out with the traditional theatre. Following recruitment as described (point 6) there will be an opportunity to increase the activity.

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