

Date: 25/08/2026
Our Ref: 11770
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENERAL PRACTICE WORKFORCE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to General Practice Workforce in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. For each GP practice in your Board area, the number of vacant GP posts (headcount and whole-time equivalent) as at the most recent date for which information is held, and, where recorded, how long each post has been vacant.
2. If practice-level vacancy information is not held, any aggregate assessment of GP workforce vacancies across the Board area produced in the last 12 months, for example workforce planning reports or primary care strategy papers.

Answer:

This information is not collected by NHS Lothian for most GP practices. GP practices are independent contractors which are individually subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. You may be able to get this information by applying directly to each individual GP practice.

For 2c practices there are no vacancies.

Question:

3. The number of applications or notifications from GP practices relating to closure of their patient lists, whether formal or informal (including managed or temporary closures and agreed restrictions on new registrations), received in each of the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 to date, and for each one the practice name, the date received, and the outcome (approved, refused, withdrawn, or agreed).

Answer:

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

GP practice list closure notifications, NHS Lothian			
Practice	Date notified	Application Type	Outcome
South Queensferry Medical Practice	13/03/2024	Formal	Approved

Liberton Medical Group	07/05/2024	Formal	Approved
Grange Medical Group	05/06/2024	Formal	Approved
Ferniehill Surgery	28/08/2024	Formal	Approved
St Leonard's Medical Centre	24/10/2024	Formal	Approved
Liberton Medical Group	06/03/2025	Formal	Approved
The Southern Medical Group	12/06/2025	Formal	Approved
St Leonard's Medical Centre	16/09/2025	Formal	Approved
Liberton Medical Group	07/10/2025	Formal	Approved

Question:

4. For each of the same financial years, the number of GP practices in your area that closed, merged, or terminated their General Medical Services contract, with the practice name and effective date in each case.

Answer:

There were no closures, mergers or termination of contracts by any GP practices in the year 2024/25. In the year 2025/06 the Polwarth Medical Practice closed from 30 November 2025.

Question:

5. Any register or list currently maintained by the Board of practices whose patient lists are formally closed, or subject to agreed restrictions on new patient registrations, as at the date of this request.

Answer:

There is currently one practice with a list closure notice in place. This is St Leonard's Medical Centre. The closure was effective from 1 November 2025. The list size at closure was 8,562. The list size to reopen is 8,450, and the list will remain closed for 12 months or until this number is reached.

There are no current list restriction agreements in place.

Question:

6. Any list currently maintained by the Board of practices identified as requiring support with capacity or sustainability, for example through a primary care risk register or sustainability programme, as at the date of this request. If disclosing practice names would engage an exemption, please provide the information with practice identifiers redacted rather than refusing the item in full.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold a list of GP practices requiring support.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive