

Date 28 August 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11786

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SUB-NATIONAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Scotland East finance documents.

Question:

- I am interested in work about NHS finances carried out for the Scotland East region.

Please provide all papers, meeting minutes and other documents covering the Scotland East region's finances. This would include but is not limited to modelling, financial outlook, options for savings, papers presented at meetings, minutes and agendas, etc.

I understand the region is a collaboration of several boards so please provide information held by NHS Lothian.

Answer:

Initial estimates are that there would be 176 documents within the scope of the request. The cost of providing this information would on its own exceed the £600 threshold set out in the Act. Therefore, the information is considered exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - cost.

It should also be noted that as this is an on-going process a lot of the information requested is currently not releasable under Section 30 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs.

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act -

(b) would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially-

(i) the free and frank provision of advice; or

(ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation; or

(c) would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

Reducing the scope of the request - You have asked for the following:

“Please provide all papers, meeting minutes and other documents covering the Scotland East region’s finances. This would include but is not limited to modelling, financial outlook, options for savings, papers presented at meetings, minutes and agendas, etc.”

This is a very broad request with no time frame. The Sub-National planning direction was introduced in November 2025, so the request spans 9 months to the end of July and captures all work related to Sub-National planning since inception. If you wish to receive a response under the cost limit, you could add a time limit and only request specific documents such as agendas or specific papers which you are interested in pertaining to finance.

I am sorry I cannot help further with your request at this time

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