

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – X RAYS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to X-rays in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. On how many occasions in (a) 2020/21 b) 2021/22, c) 2022/23, d) 2023/24, e)2024/25 and f)2025/26 did your health board send scans to external radiology providers in (a) Scotland (b) the rest of the UK and (c) outside of the UK, for reporting services.

Answer:

1,204 X-ray scans were sent to an external provider in Scotland in 2025/26. No X-ray scans were sent to external providers in any of the other years requested, and no scans have been sent outwith Scotland or outwith the UK.

Question:

2. During the last three years, which countries outside of the UK has your health board sent scans for analysis to, broken down by the number of scans sent.

Answer:

None.

Question:

3. On how many occasions have staff reported concerns about the quality of reporting by companies sub-contracted to conduct radiology services.

Answer:

Any concerns with reports are brought to the attention of the Clinical Director for Radiology and relevant cases are feedback shared with the provider to investigate. Records are not kept on the number of individual concerns, and so we are not able to provide information on the number of concerns raised.

Question:

4. Please provide me with the a) average and b) longest waiting time for patient to receive the results of a scan where it has been sent to an external radiology provider.

Answer:

This information is not held centrally, as recorded reporting times are from referral to report and are not split by in house and outsourced reporting.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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