

Date: 08/09/2026
Our Ref: 11845
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to guidance on first cousin marriage in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Please can you provide all materials your health board has provided to staff which refers to first cousin marriage. This should include any guidelines or advice provided to NHS staff in your board area regarding first cousin marriage and any health implications for future children. This should also include any training materials provided to NHS staff in your health board area which covers the subject of first cousin marriage and any health implications for future children.

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not provided any materials, guidance, or training to staff or patients regarding consanguineous marriage in NHS Lothian.

This is currently being discussed, and a Short Life Working Group is being set up as part of the Women's Health Plan Implementation. The purpose of the group is to develop preconception health information for women with diverse cultural backgrounds, to be added to the Maternity Services website. This work will be undertaken in collaboration with the Maternity Voices Partnership, a staff and patient group.

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