

Date 11 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11846

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – QUALIFICATIONS

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

Question:

- I wish to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.
I note that the West Lothian Chief Nurse Matched Job Report states, under factor 2. Knowledge, Training and Experience, that the applicant should have "advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, professional knowledge acquired through degree /diploma supplemented by specialist training, experience, short courses to doctorate level or equivalent". (See attached Matched Job Description).

Doctorate level is SCQF Level 12. How does the post holder evidence that they have KTE to doctorate level/SCQF Level 12. Which SCQF Level 12 courses would evidence KTE at Level 8.

SCPHN Specialist School Nurses can easily demonstrate that they have a Masters Level/SCQF Level 11 qualification (it's on the certificate) yet it's not clear how NHS Lothian Chief Nurses prove that they have knowledge, training and skills at PhD level/ SCQF Level 12. Please explain this inconsistency to me and tell me which SCQF Level 12 short courses are required for the post.

Answer:

I am advised that the information requested is not held by NHS Lothian in a recorded format. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise we do not hold this information.

As the information is not held you are asking for an opinion / explanation. Opinion is not covered under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 only factually accurate recorded information.

I am sorry I cannot help further 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