

Date 29 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11891

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH PLACEMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mental health placements.

Question:

For each of financial years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 (to date, with the cut-off date stated):

- How many people whose care you funded were in an inpatient mental health, learning disability or forensic placement outside this Board's own hospitals at year end (or the nearest census you hold), split:
 - outwith NHS Scotland;
 - in Scotland but not in this Board (another NHS Board or independent provider in Scotland).
 If (a) is only held as the national census figure, say so and answer (b).
- Total expenditure (£) on those placements in each year, split (a)/(b) if held. If only a single total is held, provide that and say so.

Aggregates only. If a count is below your disclosure threshold, use "<5" and still provide the £ total if that total is not identifying.

Answer:

Year	Area	No.	Cost	Area	No.	Costs
2021/22	Scotland - Patients	26	£3,674,769	England - Patients	5<	£916,313
2022/23	Scotland - Patients	18	£3,938,489	England - Patients	5<	£1,344,888
2023/24	Scotland - Patients	20	£4,045,779	England - Patients	7	£1,710,209
2024/25	Scotland - Patients	23	£4,126,733	England - Patients	7	£1,578,420
2025/26	Scotland - Patients	26	£5,209,634	England - Patients	8	£1,543,354

We have not included 2026/27 YTD as these are often invoiced in arrears so the current costs will not be reflective of the actual costs incurred.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the

information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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 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