Lothian NHS Board

Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

Telephone: 0131 536 9000
www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Date: 18/08/2026
Our Ref: 11545
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to NHS Lothian's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Question:

Please can you provide the number of admissions to your NICU and number of times the NICU has been closed at Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh from 2021 - 2026 and the reason why.

Answer:

The table below details the number of admissions to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit during this period:

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit admissions, 2021-2026, NHS Lothian	
Year	Number of admissions
2021	840
2022	789
2023	942
2024	828
2025	759
2026 (January - May)	354

Information about the number of times the neonatal unit has been closed to admissions due to capacity is not collected centrally. This information is recorded on daily capacity sheets held in the unit, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each sheet record over the 6 years you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI

Yours sincerely

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