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Our Ref 11684

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – THEATRES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to theatre capacity.

Question:

1. Operating theatres: capacity and condition

1a. As at the most recent date, how many operating theatres does the trust have in use? Please break this down by type: standard, laminar-flow, day-case or procedure, and hybrid (with integrated imaging).

1b. For each operating theatre, please give the year it was build or last fully refurbished (a full refurbishment includes a new HVAC, that is, heading and ventilation, system).

Answer:

| Theatres, NHS Lothian Site                     | Number and type                                                                               | Built / Refurbish Date          |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| St John's Hospital                             | 10x Standard<br>2x Ultra Clean Ventilation                                                    | 10x 1989<br>2x 2017             |
| Western General Hospital                       | 9 theatres including 1 UCV                                                                    | 8x 2000<br>1x 2010              |
| Royal Hospital for Children & Young People/DCN | 10 theatres, all Ultra Clean Ventilation<br>4 Theatres Laminar flow<br>37, Integrated Imaging | 2021                            |
| Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh                   | 24 theatres, including 6 UCV<br>Laminar flow 19 – 24 Ortho Theatres                           | 2003                            |
| Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion                | 2 theatres- conventional ventilation                                                          | Theatre 1 –<br>Theatre 2 - 2018 |

Question:

1c. Does the trust hold an estate register or list of its operating theatres? If so, please provide it or its key fields.

Answer:

No specific list of operating theatres is held by Estates and Facilities. Details of all NHS Lothian's owned or leased properties are on the Strategic Asset Management System (SAMS) which can produce a report with fields such as Site Code, Site Name, Address, Ownership/Tenure, Status and other property-related information.

Question:

1e. What was the average operating-theatre utilisation rate over the most recent twelve months (for example, the percentage of available session time used)?

Answer:

84% for scheduled activity.

Question:

1f. How many operating theatres, if any, are currently out of use or operating under restriction, and for what recorded reason?

Answer:

None.

Question:

2. Surgical hubs

2a. Does the trust operate an elective surgical hub (a unit given over to planned surgery with ring-fenced theatres and staff)? If yes, please give the year it opened and the number of theatres it contains.

2b. Is any such hub accredited under the GIRFT Elective Hub Accreditation programme?

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not operate an elective surgical hub.

Question:

2c. Are there approved or planned schemes to create or expand a surgical hub within the next five years? If so, please give a brief description, the number of theatres, and the expected date.

Answer:

No.

Question:

3. Endoscopy and diagnostics

3a. How many endoscopy procedure rooms does the trust have in use?

Answer:

12.

Question:

3b. At the most recent date, what is the size of the endoscopy waiting list and the longest wait, if not already published?

Answer:

The endoscopy waiting list is at 3,487, with the longest wait over 52 weeks.

Question:

3c. Are there approved or planned schemes to add endoscopy or community diagnostic capacity within the next five years? Please describe briefly, with expected dates.

Answer:

There have been discussions about further utilising the existing facilities, but expected dates are not yet agreed on.

Question:

4. Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD)

4a. Is the trust's Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) provided in-house or outsourced? If outsourced, to which provider, where recorded?

Answer:

Routinely provided in house with a decontamination contingency contract awarded to Steris Instrument processing.

Question:

4b. In what year was the main CSSD facility built or last significantly refurbished (a significant refurbishment includes replacing essential components such as sterilisers)?

Answer:

2010

Question:

5. Endoscope decontamination

5a. Is the trust's endoscope decontamination provided in-house or outsourced? If outsourced, to which provider, where recorded?

Answer:

Provided in house.

Question:

5b. In what year was the main endoscope decontamination facility built or last significantly refurbished (a significant refurbishment includes replacing essential components such as AERs, the machines that clean endoscopes)?

Answer:

There is no main decontamination facility, these are attached to each endoscopy unit in NHS Lothian. Essential refurbishment is undertaken on a rolling basis. The last AERs were replaced at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh during the 2024/25 financial year.

Question:

5c. In the last three years, has any decontamination or sterilisation facility had unplanned downtime that required temporary or contingency arrangements? If so, please describe briefly.

Answer:

Yes. Due to washer and AER breakdowns staff and endoscopes have been transferred to other endoscopy units in NHS Lothian to be processed.

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](http://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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive