Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
www.nhslothian.scot

Date 20 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11887

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – A&E DEATHS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to A&E deaths.

Question:
1. Can you tell me how many deaths happened on your A&E wards in each calendar ear 2022-2026 to date?

Answer:

Year	Number of deaths
2022	304
2023	265
2024	244
2025	202
2026 (to date)	137

1. Date ranges: 01/01/2022 - 31/08/26 inclusive
2. Patients who died are defined as those with discharge condition of 'Died - In Emergency Department', 'Died - In Theatre' or a registered death during their A&E admission period
3. Please note there will be people in data who were deceased on arrival. These could be filtered out but there is no way to confirm all patients died within the Emergency Departments if the discharge condition is blank. The numbers are patients who have a registered death during the A&E attendance period or the discharge condition is 'Died - In Emergency Department', 'Died - In Theatre'.

Question:
4. Can you also provide numbers as to how many complaints you have had about your A&E wards in each calendar year?

Answer:
The figures below are based on complaints received and include NHS Lothian's Emergency Departments at RIE, SJH and RHCYP.

Date received	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Total	133	144	169	160	138	744

Question:
5. How much did your NHS board pay out in compensation for mistakes made by A&E staff during each calendar year?

6. For each case, can you breakdown what the pay-outs were for and for how much?

Answer:

Calander Year	**Q3: Figures**	**Q4: Settlement***	**Q4: Settlement *inc. Pursuers Expenses & DWP***	**Q4: Full Settlement Value *(incl. Pursuers Expenses / DWP / Board Fees & Outlays)***
2022/23	5<	£648,500.00	£847,834	£957,254
2023 /24	5<	£180,254.00	£361,328	£466,868
2024/25	5<	£35,000.00	£127,500	£172,289
202526	5<	£355,914.00	£426,001	£452,115
2026 - 5/9/26	5<	£661,930.00	£777,972	£825,061
Total	*14*	*£1,881,598*	*£2,540,635*	*£2,873,587*
Please note that this refers to settlement year as the claim may have been raised several years before.				

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