Lothian NHS Board

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Date 20 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11926

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MATERNITY SPEND

I write in response to your request for information in relation to maternity spend.

Question:

1. **Maternity Services Expenditure**
   Please provide the total annual expenditure on maternity services for each financial year from **2019-20 to 2025-26** (or the most recent year available), with a breakdown, if possible, between hospital services and community services.

Answer:

As requested, table outlining maternity spend between 2019-2025, all in £K:

Area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Community	5,912	5,969	6,478	6,820	7,034	8,234	8,715
Hospital	18,380	19,876	21,223	21,860	23,224	25,357	29,018
Total	**24,291**	**25,845**	**27,701**	**28,680**	**30,258**	**33,591**	**37,733**

Question:

2. **Funding Sources**
   Please provide information on:
   - The sources of funding for maternity services within the Board.
   - Any ring-fenced maternity, neonatal, or women's health funding received between 2019-20 and 2025-26.
   - Details of any specific funding allocations received from the Scottish Government for The Best Start implementation.

Answer:

The funding for all service is primarily via historic allocations that form part of the base budget, additional Scottish Government allocations received are detailed below and if they are recurring (R) or earmarked (ER) recurring or Non-recurring (NR) in nature. In addition, £1.5M was invested recurrently in maternity services via board funds in FY2025/26. Specific Scottish Government allocations are detailed below:

All £K		Year							
Type 2	Type	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	Total
Best Start/ Neonatal Investments	NR	£954	£1,008	£188	£750	£774	£86		£3,759
	R/ER						£550		£550
Best Start. Neonatal Total		£954	£1,008	£188	£750	£774	£636		£4,309
BLISS BABY	NR				£10	£10		£85	£105
BREASTFEEDING	NR	£101	£202	£124		£204			£630
	R/ER				£104		£87	£135	£326
BREASTFEEDING Total		£101	£202	£124	£104	£204	£87	£135	£956
MISCARRIAGE	R/ER							£226	£226
SHORT MIDWIFERY PROG	NR				£3	£15	£28	£15	£60
Total		**£1,054**	**£1,210**	**£312**	**£867**	**£1,003**	**£750**	**£461**	**£5,657**

Question:

3. **Funding Allocation and Decision-Making**
   Please explain how funding allocations are determined for maternity services within the board, including:
   - The governance process for making funding and allocation decisions related to maternity services.
   - Copies of any financial reports, evaluations, or monitoring reports that discuss the costs of implementing The Best Start

Answer:

Funding for each service is based on base budgets and are uplifted annually to account for pay increases. Any additional investment from board funds are based on evaluation of workforce requirements and these are presented to the corporate management team for review/ approval. The additional £1.5M in 2025/26 was after such a review.

We have not found any specific financial, evaluation or monitoring reports on Best Start implementation costs within Women and Children's Services.

The Best Start Implementation Plan is enclosed. It is not a financial report and has no costings, but it does refer to funding risks and pressures (section 6 and recommendations on Keeping Mums and Babies Together, AHP input and the neonatal workforce).

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