Lothian NHS Board

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

Date 12 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11933

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GIC REFERRALS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to GIC referrals.

Question:

1. For each year from 2015/16 to 2025/26 (financial years, or calendar years if that is how you hold the data), please provide:

   The number of referrals accepted onto the waiting list.

Answer:

Figures below show the number of referrals received by us each year.

Year	Referrals received each year
2015/16	98
2016/17	203
2017/18	274
2018/19	302
2019/20	337
2020/21	322
2021/22	452
2022/23	436
2023/24	505
2024/25	429
2025/26	508
2026/27	291

Question:

2. Of those referrals (grouped by the year the referral was received), the number who:
   a. completed assessment and were diagnosed with gender incongruence (ICD-11 HA60/HA61) or gender dysphoria / transsexualism (ICD-10 F64.x);
   b. completed assessment and were not given that diagnosis;

Answer:

We are unable to provide the information requested in the queries 2a & b as this data is not routinely recorded in any database or spreadsheet. This information would only be recorded within individual clinical notes as free text and is therefore not held in an extractable format.

In order to obtain the data requested, we would have to manually review all relevant clinical notes. This would require us to manually review approximately 3,400 records for the full period requested, or approximately 2,400 records if the search were limited to the past five years.

Question:

3. were discharged or taken off the waiting list before assessment was complete, broken down by reason if recorded (for example: patient withdrew, did not attend, moved out of area, transferred to another service, died, other/unknown);

Answer:

We began providing reason for removal from waiting lists (other than being seen) to PHS in Q2 2025/26. The format we provide it to PHS is quarterly so the data we give PHS represents the previous quarters numbers.

As the requestor of this FOI is looking for this data to be presented by the year of their referral (rather than year they were removed) the data presented here might differ slightly from what has been shared with PHS.

For context on the years below, when we started recording removal reason data for PHS we were seeing patients referred in approximately October 2022 and we are now currently seeing patients referred to us in February 2024.

Year	Did not respond to invite (DNA)	No longer in catchment area	No longer desired to be seen	Other	Total
2022/23	33	5<	5<	5<	42
2023/24	46	14	6	5<	*
2024/25		5<	5<		5<
Total	79	19	11	5<	*

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).

Question:
4. Are still waiting for, or still going through, assessment.

Answer:

Figures below show the year of referral and the number of patients still awaiting assessment based on the year we received their referral.

Year	Referrals still waiting for appt by year
2015/16	0
2016/17	0
2017/18	0
2018/19	0
2019/20	0
2020/21	0
2021/22	0
2022/23	5<
2023/24	54
2024/25	401
2025/26	418
2026/27	257

This data is all in financial years.

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