Lothian NHS Board

Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

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

Date: 16/10/2026
Our Ref: 11940
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to third sector organisations working with NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many third sector or not-for-profit organisations are currently involved in supporting discharge for patients aged 50 and over.

Answer:

West Lothian – 1
Midlothian – 1
Edinburgh – 0
East Lothian - 1

Question:

2. The name of each organisation.

Answer:

West Lothian – Carers of West Lothian (COWL)

Midlothian – Red Cross.

East Lothian- Volunteer Centre East Lothian (Community First Service)

Question:

3. Which of the following services each organisation provides, where this information is available:

- Discharge planning and support
- Preparing the home for return, for example heating, food or tidying
- Transport to the home
- Settling into the home
- Assistance with shopping and/or medication while at home

11940 Third Sector Organisations and Hospital Discharge October 2026 (002)

Answer:

West Lothian – Carers of West Lothian can provide support in the all the areas listed.

Midlothian – Red Cross provides support with discharge, preparing the home for return, transport to home, settling into home, and assistance with shopping.

East Lothian – Volunteer Centre East Lothian can provide support in the all the areas listed, apart from directly providing transportation.

Question:

4. When each current programme or contract began.

Answer:

West Lothian – Carers of West Lothian began working with NHS Lothian in April 2026.

Midlothian – Red Cross began working with NHS Lothian in March 2025.

East Lothian - Volunteer Centre East Lothian began providing a service in October 2020. An expanded service was commissioned from October 2023.

Question:

5. Whether the programme or contract has a scheduled end date and, if so, when this is.

Answer:

West Lothian – Carers of West Lothian contract ends 29 March 2029.

Midlothian – Red Cross, funding for the project ends in March 2027.

East Lothian - The contract with Volunteer Centre East Lothian for the Community First Service ends on 31 March 2030.

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