Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
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Date 20 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11951

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL PRESCRIBING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dental prescribing.

Question:

- I am specifically requesting general comparative and historical dental prescribing data for 2018, covering Scotland.

  Please provide any information you hold relating to:
  - Average or median prescribing rates for NHS dentists in 2018, including the units and denominators used to calculate those rates.
  - Comparative prescribing rates for the listed preparations, including sodium fluoride toothpaste 5000 ppm and Fluoride Mouthwash and Amoxicillin capsules, with a breakdown by strength where available.
  - NHS Board, regional and national comparator data across all of Scotland.
  - The prescribing-monitoring methodology used by Practitioner Services in 2018, and any equivalent methodologies used elsewhere in the UK that you hold.
  - Any thresholds or criteria used at that time to identify unusual or atypical dental prescribing.

Answer:

I am advised that much of the information requested is already publicly available via Public Health Scotland (PHS). The open data will provide some of the underlying information or useful context,

https://opendata.scot/datasets/public+health+scotland-prescribed+and+dispensed/

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

This will not provide information on rates and we would require clarification as to what is meant by “rates” in order to provide any useful information from data we might hold.

I am sorry I cannot help further 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