Lothian NHS Board

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www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Date: 14/10/2026
Our Ref: 11960
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DRUG POISONING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to drug poisoning in NHS Lothian.

Question:

To ask how many cases your health board has recorded of a patient being admitted following a drug overdose or poisoning to emergency units. Could this be broken down by the following years: 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24; 2024/25; 2025/26.

Answer:

The table below details the number of inpatient admissions recorded with the main ICD-10 diagnosis codes T36-T50: poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances. This does not distinguish between accidental of deliberate consumption, or between prescription or illicit drugs.

Inpatient admissions due to drug poisoning, NHS Lothian	
Year	Number of admissions
2021/22	2,161
2022/23	1,177
2023/24	1,428
2024/25	975
2025/26	1,279

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