Lothian NHS Board

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

Date 10 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11929

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – EXPENDITURE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to expenditure on awareness raising.

Question:
I am seeking information concerning expenditure and budget allocations by NHS Lothian relating specifically to LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTQIA / LGBTI+ / LGBTI / LGBTQQIA+ initiatives, promotional materials and associated awareness or promotional activity.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am particularly interested in expenditure on promotional materials and items such as NHS-branded or NHS-affiliated LGBTQ+ pins, badges, lanyards, stickers, posters, flags, printed materials and similar items.

1. Expenditure over the last five financial years
Please provide the total amount actually spent by NHS Lothian in each of the following financial years:

- 2021/22
- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26

on LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTQIA / LGBTI+ / LGBTI or equivalent initiatives, campaigns, promotional activity or materials.
Please provide the figures separately for each financial year.

2. Promotional materials
For each of the five financial years above, please provide expenditure specifically relating to promotional or branded materials connected with the above initiatives.
Please include, where applicable:

- pins;
- badges;
- lanyards;
- stickers;
- wristbands;

- flags;
- posters;
- banners;
- leaflets;
- brochures;
- printed literature;
- clothing;
- merchandise;
- promotional displays;
- digital promotional materials;
- other promotional items.

Please provide the total expenditure for each financial year and, where this information is readily available, a breakdown by type of item.

3. NHS pins and similar items

Please specifically provide details of any NHS Lothian expenditure on LGBTQ+ themed or Pride-related pins, badges or similar wearable promotional items during the last five financial years.
For each financial year, please provide:
a) total amount spent;
b) number of items purchased;
c) type of item;
d) unit cost, where available;
e) supplier;
f) date of purchase;
g) purpose/use of the items, where recorded.
If the items were supplied free of charge or at no cost to NHS Lothian, please state this.

4. Other LGBTQ+ promotional expenditure

Please provide details of expenditure on any other LGBTQ+ promotional or awareness materials or activities during the same period.
Where readily available, please identify:
a) the item or activity;
b) amount spent;
c) date of expenditure;
d) supplier or organisation paid;
e) relevant NHS Lothian department or service;
f) stated purpose of the expenditure.

5. Budget allocations

For each of the five financial years 2021/22 to 2025/26, please provide the amount of budget formally allocated, ring-fenced, earmarked or otherwise set aside by NHS Lothian specifically for:
a) LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTI+ or equivalent initiatives;
b) LGBTQ+ promotional or awareness materials;

c) LGBTQ+ campaigns, events or promotional activity.
Please distinguish between:

- budget allocated;
- actual expenditure;
- unspent budget, where recorded.

6. Next financial year
Please provide the amount of budget currently allocated, approved, earmarked or proposed for the next financial year, 2026/27, specifically for:
a) LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTI+ or equivalent initiatives;
b) LGBTQ+ promotional or awareness materials;
c) LGBTQ+ campaigns, events or promotional activity.
Please clearly identify whether each figure is:

- formally approved;
- allocated but not yet spent;
- proposed;
- provisional;
- or otherwise planned.

7. Staff and external organisations
Please provide details of any expenditure during the five-year period on external organisations, consultants, charities, equality organisations or other third parties specifically engaged to provide LGBTQ+ awareness, training, promotional or related services.
For each financial year, please provide:
a) organisation/provider;
b) amount paid;
c) service or purpose;
d) date/period of engagement.
Please exclude ordinary NHS staff salaries unless an employee was specifically employed in a role whose primary purpose was an LGBTQ+-specific programme or initiative. If such staff costs are included, please identify them separately.

8. Events and campaigns
Please provide the total amount spent by NHS Lothian in each of the five financial years on LGBTQ+ / Pride-related events, campaigns or promotional activities.
Where available, please identify:

- event/campaign name;
- date;
- expenditure;
- supplier/provider;
- purpose.

9. Funding source and budget holder

For the expenditure identified above, please provide the relevant NHS Lothian department, directorate, programme, cost centre or budget heading from which the expenditure was funded, where this information is readily available.

Please also state whether the expenditure was funded from:

- NHS Lothian's general operating budget;
- an equality/diversity budget;
- a staff engagement/wellbeing budget;
- a communications/marketing budget;
- another specific budget;
- external funding.

10. Terminology/search terms

When searching for the requested information, please include records using the following terms and reasonable variations thereof:

- LGBTQ
- LGBTQ+
- LGBTQIA
- LGBTQIA+
- LGBT
- LGBT+
- LGBTI
- LGBTI+
- LGBTQQIA+
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer
- Pride
- Pride Month
- LGBTQ+ equality
- LGBT equality
- LGBTQ+ awareness
- LGBT awareness
- LGBTQ+ inclusion
- LGBT inclusion

Please also include reasonable variations in spelling, capitalisation and punctuation.

11. Documents supporting the expenditure

Please provide copies of any relevant budget papers, procurement records, invoices, purchase orders, expenditure reports or other documents which identify expenditure on LGBTQ+ promotional materials where these can be disclosed without disproportionate effort.

If providing individual invoices or purchase orders would exceed the applicable cost limit, please instead provide the aggregated expenditure figures and supplier information.

Answer:
Please see enclosed spreadsheet. For questions 7 and 8 see below:

Question 7: Contracted Spend

NHS Lothian has the following contracts in place. The contracts are primarily for the provision of specialist support services to LGBTQ+ young people and adults. Although the contracts include workforce development and training elements, NHS Lothian does not separately record or hold information identifying the proportion of contract expenditure attributable to these activities. It is therefore not possible to provide a separate value for awareness or training services.

Organisation: **LGBT Health and Wellbeing**

Financial Year	Total Spend	Purpose
2021/22	£188,500.00	This spend includes - Provision of services to support the Sexual Health and Wellbeing of LGBT Adults. LGBT Mental Wellbeing Project. Helpline; Counselling; Transgender Support Programme; and funding to enhance mental health and general wellbeing support for trans and non-binary patients on clinic waiting lists. Listening to LGBT+ voices in maternity services. Pride 2022 Event.
2021/22	£188,500.00	
2022/23	£199,345.00	
2023/24	£188,500.00	
2024/25	£268,190.00	
2025/26	£217,500.00	
2026/27	£124,250.00	

Organisation: **LGBT Youth Scotland**

Financial Year	Total Spend	Purpose
2021/22	£115,539.16	This spend relates to the provision of services to support the sexual health and wellbeing of LGBT Young People. Also the LGBT Mental Wellbeing Project. Spend for Arts Programmes and Design work including Top tips for trans inclusion for the Youth Work Sector / Posters/Presentation. Enhance mental health and general wellbeing for trans and non-binary on clinic waiting lists.
2022/23	£110,679.00	
2023/24	£111,359.00	
2024/25	£132,864.00	
2025/26	£116,272.00	
2026/27	£63,136.00	

Non-Contracted Spend

Financial Year	Organisation Provider	Total Spend (ex VAT)	Service or purpose	Date or period of engagement
2022/23	Equality Network	£675.00	Training sessions	Aug-22
2022/23	Capital Pride	£600.00	NHS Lothian Sponsor - Pride Edinburgh 2023	Mar-23
2023/24	Fair Limited	£566.00	Converting the Mainstreaming Equality and Equality Outcomes Progress Report into Easy Read (Doesn't specifically mention LGBTQ+)	May-23
2023/24	The Body Project	£1,400.00	LGBTQIA+ Communities: Online Booster Training	Nov-23
2024/25	Equality Network	£500.00	Talks at Young Person Study Days	May 2024 and August 2024
2024/25	Equality Network	£550.00	LGBT+ Awareness Training	Sept 24 - Aug 25
2026/27	Cosla	£4,330.00	Conference for Annual Equality and Diversity Conference venue hire and catering. (Doesn't specifically mention LGBTQ+)	Jun-26

Question 8

Financial Year	Organisation Provider	Total Spend (ex VAT)	Service or purpose	Date or period of engagement or invoice date
2021/22	LGBT Youth Scotland	£300.00	Design of Document/poster and powerpoint slides for Top Trips for trans inclusion for the Youth Work Sector	31/01/2022
2021/22	LGBT Youth Scotland	£1,500.00	Thrive Arts Programme Grant 2021 (Pride & Pixels Festivals)	12/08/2021
2022/23	LGBT Youth Scotland	£4,500.00	Enliven - Thrive Art Programme Grant	15/06/2022
2022/23	LGBT Health & Wellbeing	£845.00	Pride for All 2022 - Event as part of the Thrive Edinburgh Grant	06/05/2022
2022/23	Capital Pride	£600.00	ROAM NHS Lothian Sponsor (Community) for Pride Edinburgh 2023 Saturday 24th June - Capital Pride Limited	24/06/2023

2023/24	LGBT Youth Scotland	£2,100.00	Thrive Arts Small Grant 2023 (Pride)	24/06/2023
2023/24	LGBT Youth Scotland	£980.00	SMAFF Grant 2023	27/04/2023
2026/27	Cosla	£4,330.00	Annual Equality and Diversity Conference venue hire and catering, Thursday 25th June 2026 (Doesn't mention LGBTQ+ specifically).	25/06/2026

We are aware of the following services are accredited with the LGBTYS charter:

- CAMHS – approx. Aug 2024
- Children's Services – June 2023
- Healthy Respect – Gold Charter October 2022

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
Enc.

FOI Request 11929	Comment
1. Expenditure over the last five financial years Please provide the total amount actually spent by NHS Lothian in each of the following financial years: 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25 2025/26 on LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTQIA / LGBTI+ / LGBTI or equivalent initiatives, campaigns, promotional activity or materials. Please provide the figures separately for each financial year.	Please refer to attached Word Document for information / details relating to this question
2. Promotional materials For each of the five financial years above, please provide expenditure specifically relating to promotional or branded materials connected with the above initiatives. Please include, where applicable: pins; badges; lanyards; stickers; wristbands; flags; posters; banners; leaflets; brochures; printed literature; clothing; merchandise; promotional displays; digital promotional materials; other promotional items. Please provide the total expenditure for each financial year and, where this information is readily available, a breakdown by type of item.	2021/22 - No Data Found for Promotional Items 2022/23 - No Data Found for Promotional Items 2023/24 - **£3986.35** spent on Ballpoint Pens, Water Bottles, Post-It Notes, Table Cloths, Banners, Stress Balls 2024/25 - No Data Found for Promotional Items 2025/26 - **£390.00** spent on T-Shirts
3. NHS pins and similar items Please specifically provide details of any NHS Lothian expenditure on LGBTQ+ themed or Pride-related pins, badges or similar wearable promotional items during the last five financial years. For each financial year, please provide: a) total amount spent; b) number of items purchased; c) type of item; d) unit cost, where available; e) supplier; f) date of purchase; g) purpose/use of the items, where recorded. If the items were supplied free of charge or at no cost to NHS Lothian, please state this.	Report for Promotional Items does not specify any purchases for Pins or similar items
4. Other LGBTQ+ promotional expenditure Please provide details of expenditure on any other LGBTQ+ promotional or awareness materials or activities during the same period. Where readily available, please identify: a) the item or activity; b) amount spent; c) date of expenditure; d) supplier or organisation paid; e) relevant NHS Lothian department or service; f) stated purpose of the expenditure.	2021/22 - No Data Found for Promotional Items 2022/23 - No Data Found for Promotional Items 2023/24 - **£3986.35** spent on Ballpoint Pens, Water Bottles, Post-It Notes, Table Cloths, Banners, Stress Balls 2024/25 - No Data Found for Promotional Items 2025/26 - **£390.00** spent on T-Shirts Supplier paid was Panda Print 2023/24 Department in Lothian was Human Resources Dept at Astley Ainslie Hospital 2024/25 Department in Lothian was Site Management at New Royal Infimary of Edinburgh No information provided or available that states purpose of expenditure
5. Budget allocations For each of the five financial years 2021/22 to 2025/26, please provide the amount of budget formally allocated, ring-fenced, earmarked or otherwise set aside by NHS Lothian specifically for: a) LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTI+ or equivalent initiatives; b) LGBTQ+ promotional or awareness materials; c) LGBTQ+ campaigns, events or promotional activity. Please distinguish between: budget allocated; actual expenditure; unspent budget, where recorded.	Not held
6. Next financial year Please provide the amount of budget currently allocated, approved, earmarked or proposed for the next financial year, 2026/27, specifically for: a) LGBTQ+ / LGBT+ / LGBT / LGBTQIA+ / LGBTI+ or equivalent initiatives; b) LGBTQ+ promotional or awareness materials; c) LGBTQ+ campaigns, events or promotional activity. Please clearly identify whether each figure is: formally approved; allocated but not yet spent; proposed; provisional; or otherwise planned.	Not held
7. Staff and external organisations Please provide details of any expenditure during the five-year period on external organisations, consultants, charities, equality organisations or other third parties specifically engaged to provide LGBTQ+ awareness, training, promotional or related services. For each financial year, please provide: a) organisation/provider; b) amount paid; c) service or purpose; d) date/period of engagement. Please exclude ordinary NHS staff salaries unless an employee was specifically employed in a role whose primary purpose was an LGBTQ+-specific programme or initiative. If such staff costs are included, please identify them separately.	Please refer to attached Word Document for information / details relating to this question
8. Events and campaigns Please provide the total amount spent by NHS Lothian in each of the five financial years on LGBTQ+ / Pride-related events, campaigns or promotional activities. Where available, please identify: event/campaign name; date; expenditure;	Please refer to attached Word Document for information / details relating to this question

supplier/provider; purpose.	
9. Funding source and budget holder For the expenditure identified above, please provide the relevant NHS Lothian department, directorate, programme, cost centre or budget heading from which the expenditure was funded, where this information is readily available. Please also state whether the expenditure was funded from: NHS Lothian's general operating budget; an equality/diversity budget; a staff engagement/wellbeing budget; a communications/marketing budget; another specific budget; external funding.	Not held
10. Terminology/search terms When searching for the requested information, please include records using the following terms and reasonable variations thereof: LGBTQ LGBTQ+ LGBTQIA LGBTQIA+ LGBT LGBT+ LGBTI LGBTI+ LGBTQQIA+ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Pride Month LGBTQ+ equality LGBT equality LGBTQ+ awareness LGBT awareness LGBTQ+ inclusion LGBT inclusion Please also include reasonable variations in spelling, capitalisation and punctuation.	Terminology specified on purchases does not show up on Financial Reports so unable to confirm this information
11. Documents supporting the expenditure Please provide copies of any relevant budget papers, procurement records, invoices, purchase orders, expenditure reports or other documents which identify expenditure on LGBTQ+ promotional materials where these can be disclosed without disproportionate effort. If providing individual invoices or purchase orders would exceed the applicable cost limit, please instead provide the aggregated expenditure figures and supplier information.	Copies of budget papers or expenditure reports unavailable. Details provided on expenditure in Questions noted above (2 and 4) which confirms aggregated spend and supplier information
12. Information not separately recorded If NHS Lothian does not maintain a specific budget or cost code for LGBTQ+ expenditure, please state this explicitly. In that circumstance, please provide any existing expenditure or budget information which can be identified using the terminology and categories above. If expenditure is incorporated within a broader equality, diversity, inclusion, communications, staff wellbeing or similar budget and cannot be separately identified, please state this and provide the name of the relevant budget/category.	This information is not held