Lothian NHS Board

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

Date 3 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11988

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MRI AND CT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to MRI and CT scanners.

Question:
1. The total number of breakdowns and technical maintenance incidents that resulted in more than 24 hours of scanner downtime during the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date

Answer:

RIE:

DCN & RHCYP MRI - Unfortunately, the team does not have the capacity to retrieve this information within the current timeframe due to the significant time involved
MRI scanners was out of action 19th - 23rd October 2026

CT there has been downtime - Unfortunately, the team does not have the capacity to retrieve this information within the current timeframe due to the significant time involved

WGH:

2023 - 0
2024 - 1
2025 - 4
2026 - 2

SJH:

Zero

Question:
2. The current number of vacant Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions for a) Consultant Clinical Radiologists - and b) Diagnostic Radiographers (specifically those trained in MRI/CT)

Answer:

a. No current vacant consultant posts

b. 2 x B6 radiographer vacancies for RIE CT & MRI & 1 x B6 Radiographer vacancy in DCN (SJH & WGH TBC)

Question:

3. The total financial spend by your health board on outsourcing scan interpretations/reporting to private companies or external groups during the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date

Answer:

Year	Spend
2023	£588,000.00
2024	£40,625.00
2025	£759,765.46
2026 M6 YTD	£448,591.45
Total	£1,836,981.91

Question:

4. The total financial spend by your health board on agency staff to operate MRI and CT scanners during the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date

Answer:

Year	Spend
2023	£61,563.70
2024	0.00
2025	£69,316.63
2026 M6 YTD	£284,599.24
Total	£415,479.57

Question:

5. The total number of scans (MRI and CT) that were referred to private healthcare facilities due to internal NHS capacity limitations during the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date

Answer:

Scans through Private Sector – Period 01/01/23 to 31/08/26	
CT	4,983
MRI	5,901

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