Lothian NHS Board

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

Date 2 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12005

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GP OUT OF HOURS SHIFTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to unfilled GP out of hours shifts.

Question:
1. The total number of unfilled GP out of hours shifts in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date?

Answer:

Year	Hours
2023	2,589
2024	1,101
2025	2,637
2026 to date	3,009
Please note we have recently recruited additional GPs	

Question:
2. The number of instances when no out of hours service was available in any area in in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date, along with details of the date and area?

Answer:
There have been no instances where there was no service available in any area.

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