Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
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Edinburgh
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Date 10 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12018

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MEDICAL CONSULTANT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to medical consultant posts.

Question:

1. As at 30 September 2026, what is the number of medical consultant posts (*all consultants regardless of specialty including NHS and honorary*) in your board by WTE for the following (please note that all posts should be counted under ONE category only):
    1. posts occupied by a permanent consultant

Answer:

This question can be answered with the TURAS Link: https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/30-june-2026-mental-health-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-mental-health-workforce/?pageid=16440

Instructions:
To get in post data, select 'employment over time' in reports tab on left hand side. Fill in:

- NHS Board - select NHS Lothian Board
- Job family – select Medical & Dental.
- Band/Grade – select Staff & Associate Specialist Grades
- Contract Type - select Permanent

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.

Question:

2. newly-created posts which have not yet been advertised

Answer:

Information not centrally held.*

Question:

3. vacant posts according to the ISD definition ("a post which has been cleared for advert after being through the redeployment process (internal or external advert) and remains a vacancy until an individual starts in the post")

Answer:

14

Question:

4. vacant posts which are awaiting approval for recruitment

Answer:

Information not centrally available.*

Question:

5. posts which although currently unfilled are not under active recruitment, e.g. where a previous recruitment exercise has been unsuccessful

Answer:

Information not centrally available.*

Question:

6. all posts occupied by a locum consultant (including consultants re-engaged as locums who previously held a permanent post and those locum consultants employed via an agency)

Answer:

9.8wte

Question:

7. posts that have been recruited to but applicant not yet in post (e.g. deferred start due to pending CCT)

Answer:

30

Question:

8. the number of consultants that are on fixed term contracts

Answer:

This question can be answered with this TURAS link https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/30-june-2026-mental-health-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-mental-health-workforce/?pageid=16440

Instructions:
To get in post data, select 'employment over time' in reports tab on left hand side. Fill in:
- NHS Board - select NHS Lothian Board
- Job family – select Medical & Dental.
- Band/Grade – select Consultant
- Contract Type - select Fixed Term

Question:
9. other (please be specific)

Answer:
Information not centrally available.*

Question:
2. As of 30 September 2026, how many of the posts listed under iii-viii above have not been occupied by a permanent substantive post holder since 31 March 2026?

As of 30 September 2026, what is the number of SAS (Specialty doctors, Specialists, Associate Specialists, or staff grades) doctors in your board by WTE for the following (please note that all posts should be counted under ONE category only):

1. posts occupied by a permanent SAS doctor

Answer:
This question can be answered with this TURAS link https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/30-june-2026-mental-health-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-mental-health-workforce/?pageid=16440

Instructions:
To get in post data, select 'employment over time' in reports tab on left hand side. Fill in:
- NHS Board - select NHS Lothian Board
- Job family – select Medical & Dental.
- Band/Grade – select Staff & Associate Specialist Grades
- Contract Type - select Permanent

Question:
2. newly created posts which have not yet been advertised (including new Specialist posts)

Answer:
Information not centrally available.*

Question:

3. vacant posts according to the definition “a post which has been cleared for advert after being through the redeployment process (internal or external advert) and remains a vacancy until an individual starts in the post”

Answer:

16

Question:

4. vacant posts which are awaiting approval for recruitment

Answer:

Information not centrally available.*

Question:

5. posts which although currently unfilled are not under active recruitment, e.g. where a previous recruitment exercise has been unsuccessful

Answer:

Information not centrally available.*

Question:

6. all posts occupied by a locum SAS doctor (including those locum specialty doctors employed via an agency)

Answer:

3.8WTE

Question:

7. posts that have been recruited to but applicant not yet in post

Answer:

16

Question:

8. The number of SAS doctors on fixed term contracts

Answer:

This question can be answered with this TURAS link https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/30-june-2026-mental-health-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-mental-health-workforce/?pageid=16440

Instructions:

To get in post data, select ‘employment over time’ in reports tab on left hand side. Fill in:

- NHS Board - select NHS Lothian Board
- Job family – select Medical & Dental.
- Band/Grade – select Staff & Associate Specialist Grades
- Contract Type - select Fixed Term

Question:

9. other (please be specific)

Answer:

Information not centrally available.*

Question:

3. As of 30 September 2026, how many of the posts listed under iii – viii above have not been occupied by a permanent substantive post holder since 31 March 2026?

Answer:

Information not centrally available.*

*Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files **relating to staff** over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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