Lothian NHS Board

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Date: 17/11/2026
Our Ref: 12030
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PRESSURE RELIEVING EQUIPMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to pressure relieving equipment in NHS Lothian. Please note that in June 2026 the reporting of pressure ulcers changed and individual pressure ulcers are now reported which may impact numbers this year.

Question:

Please provide the following information for financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. Where a product was bought through NHS National Procurement or another distributor, please give the manufacturer separately from the supplier.

1. The Board's spend on pressure-relieving support surfaces (mattresses and mattress replacement systems, overlays, cushions, and any automated turning, lateral rotation or turn-assist devices) in each financial year, split by purchase, rental or hire, and managed service, and by manufacturer and supplier.

Answer:

Managed Service Spend - Arjo Huntleigh
2023/24 - £862,327
2024/25 - £716,212
2025/26 - £804,047

Purchase Spend - Drive Devibliss / DH Care / Linet / Arjo
2023/24 - £22,338
2024/25 - £26,762
2025/26 - £111,138

Question:

2. For dynamic (powered) mattresses that are rented, hired or provided under a managed service: the supplier, the contract or framework used, its start and end dates, and the number of rental days (or units) and the cost in each financial year.

Answer:

Current Supplier used:- Arjo Huntleigh
Framework Reference:- SPS10015

Start Date:- 1st August 2025
End Date:- 31st August 2028

Cost for each financial year is answer in question 1 above.

Question:

3. The number of pressure-relieving mattresses the Board owned at 31 March 2026, by type (high-specification foam, hybrid, dynamic or alternating air, and lateral turning or rotation), and the date of any planned replacement or re-procurement.

Answer:

No - This is a managed service by an external contractor.

Question:

4. The Board's current mattress or support surface selection policy and repositioning standard (a link or copy is enough), and whether the Board uses any automated turning, lateral rotation or turn-assist device, with the product name and number in use.

Answer:

The board does not have a written selection policy for this equipment and does not have a written repositioning standard. The pressure ulcer pathways for acute and community treatment make recommendations for repositioning. There is a set contract for equipment in use in Acute Services. In community settings there is a catalogue for staff to select equipment from.

Question:

5. The number of pressure ulcers that developed in the Board's care in each financial year, by category (2, 3, 4, unstageable, suspected deep tissue injury, and medical device related).

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This data is taken from adverse events reported under the category of ‘pressure ulcer’ with the ulcer grade applied. Please note that one or more pressure ulcers can be reported per adverse event. The same patient and pressure ulcer could be reported as an adverse event more than once, at different stages.

I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Adverse events reported in the category of 'pressure ulcer', NHS Lothian			
Grade of ulcer	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**
Grade 2	238	309	426
Grade 3	64	71	88
Grade 4	11	13	14
Suspected Deep Tissue Injury	30	25	51
Ungradable	61	94	130
Mucosal PU	≤5	6	9

Question:

6. The number of patient safety incidents recorded in 2025/26 where pressure-relieving equipment was unavailable or delayed and, if the Board records it, the median time from request to provision of a dynamic mattress.

Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. Information may be held in individual patient records and adverse event reports, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

7. The group that evaluates new pressure area care equipment; its meeting dates from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027; and the submission process and evidence required from a supplier.

Answer:

There is no formal group in NHS Lothian which evaluates new pressure area care equipment. There are national frameworks for procurement of pressure relieving equipment. The NHS National Services Scotland National Distribution Centre would be able to provide further information and can be contacted directly.

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