Lothian NHS Board

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Date 12 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12033

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DISCHARGE MORTALITY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to discharge mortality.

Question:

- Please provide the following data broken down by financial year for each of the last three available cycles (e.g., 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26):

1. **SOU Discharge to Community Death (Within 48 Hours)**
   The total number of adult patients discharged from the RIE Surgical Observation Unit (SOU) to their home, a relative's home, or a non-hospital care setting who died within 72 hours of their recorded discharge time, as identified via SMR01/National Records of Scotland (NRS) death record linkage.

Answer:

Table 1 SOU Discharge to Community Death

	Died within 48 hours	Died within 72 hours
2023/24	0	0
2024/25	5<	5<
2025/26	0	0

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

2. **SOU Discharge to Emergency Readmission and Death (Within 48 Hours)**
   The total number of adult patients discharged from the RIE Surgical Observation Unit (SOU) who were subsequently readmitted to the RIE Emergency Department (ED) as an emergency

within 72 hours of that discharge, and who subsequently died within 72 hours of their original SOU discharge.

Answer:

Table 2 Subsequent ED Attendance and Death

	Reattended and Died within 48 hours	Reattended and Died within 72 hours
2023/24	0	0
2024/25	0	0
2025/26	0	0

Notes:
1. Patients on active palliative or end-of-life care pathways have not been excluded as this information is not available in a centrally extractable format.
2. Patients aged below 18 years are excluded.

- For Table 1: SOU discharges include non-admitted emergency episodes discharged from Surgical Obs Emergency, and inpatient episodes discharged from Surgical Obs Inpatients.
- For Table 2: Reattendances are counted where a patient discharged from Surgical Obs Emergency or Surgical Obs Inpatient has a subsequent attendance at RIE Emergency Department within 48/72 hours of their SOU discharge. Emergency readmissions to inpatient areas are not included in these figures.

Question:

3. **Internal Review and Audit Counts**
   Of the cases identified in Questions 1 and 2, how many were formally escalated to:
   - a) A local Morbidity and Mortality (M&M) review?
   - b) A formal Significant Adverse Event Review (SAER) or Adverse Event Review (AER)?

Answer:

No information is held in relation to this. As per Secton 17 of the Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this.

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