Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters

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

Date 9 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12044

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – COMMUNITY SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to community surgery.

Question:

- For each of the services listed below, please provide:
  a. whether your organisation currently commissions or directly provides the service outside a hospital setting, yes or no;
  b. the name of each provider organisation or practice delivering it, whether contracted or provided directly;
  c. a copy of the current service specification, or a web link if it is already published.

  Vasectomy.
  Carpal tunnel decompression.
  Any other surgical procedure provided in a community or primary care setting, for example trigger finger release, ganglion excision, ingrowing toenail surgery or other minor surgery delivered under a separate arrangement.

Answer:

NHS Lothian offer a Minor Surgery Enhanced Service that practices can sign up to if they wish. The list of the practices providing this service in 2026/27 is attached along with the spec.

In terms of supported local arrangements below is a link to the referral process and criteria for Midlothian patients to access the service in line with SLA held by Midlothian HSCP.
Midlothian HSCP Minor Surgery Service - RefHelp

Similar for Edinburgh: They provide a service for Edinburgh patients who's practice does not offer the service.

This is held at Leith Community Treatment Centre.
https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/minorsurgery/edinburghhscpminorsurgeryservice/

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.

East Lothian HSCP undertake some minor surgery at East Lothian Community Hospital.

RefHelp is a publicly visible site, but It is not for use by patients. It is intended as a local referral management website providing up-to-date guidance to support NHS Lothian referrers with their referrals to Secondary Care and Specialist services.

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