Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
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Date 10 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12046

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AGSS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to anaesthetic gas scavenging system (AGSS) failures.

Question:

- Please find attached my request for information on operating theatre disruption caused by estates, facilities and engineering failures across NHS Lothian, with anaesthetic gas scavenging system (AGSS) failures identified separately.

  Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 where applicable.

  The request covers all NHS Lothian hospital sites with operating theatres, including the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion, St John's Hospital, Western General Hospital, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Royal Hospital for Children and Young People.

  For the period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2026, I am seeking existing records of theatre downtime, delayed or cancelled activity, financial impact and contingency arrangements. The purpose is to understand the implications for theatre resilience and the costs associated with disruption and recovering cancelled activity.

Answer:

- There are no known cancellations attributable to AGSS failure over approximately the last five years
- We are unable to extract data from TRAK that would confirm cancellations specifically attributable to HSDU downtime. However, based on the information available, it is estimated that there have been a maximum of 20 such cancellations over the last 12 months
- Unfortunately, no further detail can be provided from the available data.

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