Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
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Date 10 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12049

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PSA TESTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to PSA tests.

Question:

1. Between 2021 and 2025, by calendar year, how many PSA tests were performed in primary care? Please provide the figures by year and age group in the table below.
2. Following on from Q1, how many of those PSA tests produced a result above the applicable referral threshold?
3. Of those identified in Q2, how many were referred to Urology?
4. Of those identified in Q2, how many received a prostate MRI?
5. Of those identified in Q2, how many underwent a prostate biopsy?
6. Of those identified in Q2, how many were subsequently diagnosed with prostate cancer (ICD-10 C61)?
7. For those subsequently diagnosed with prostate cancer (ICD-10 C61), please provide the stage at diagnosis, broken down by year between 2021 and 2025.

Answer:

I am advised that Laboratory data cannot separate out Primary Care PSA requests from PSA requests for oncology and post surgery follow up patients. The requested information is not held in a centrally extractable format. As we cannot separate out information for questions 1 and 2 we therefore cannot answer the following questions as well.

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 patients 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.

- The current PSA guidelines is here - Raised PSA - RefHelp - note this changed in February 2026. so for the data period covered different PSA referral thresholds were in use (which matched the lab ref ranges).

Question:

8. Please provide any local guidelines, policies or clinical pathways covering the process from PSA testing to treatment for prostate cancer (ICD-10 C61).

Answer:

Please refer to Prostate Cancer | Right Decisions

Please note that publicly available 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.

I am sorry we cannot provide any further information for 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