Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
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Date 10 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12059

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HOSPITAL TV

I write in response to your request for information in relation to hospital TV.

Question:

- I'm trying to find out what facilities there are at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for bed-bound patients. Are they able to watch television on an individual basis? Is there a radio by every bed? What is done to make their lives more bearable during the day when they don't have visitors? When I visited, I noticed a box for dispensing pay-to-view cards. Is this the route to watching TV if you are unable to walk to a common room?

Answer:

- Are they able to watch Television on an individual basis – Yes.
- Is there a Radio by every Bed – No, there will not be radio provision by every bed in the Hospital.
- What is done to make their lives more bearable during the day? – I cannot accurately answer this question. From an electronic entertainment perspective there is currently the SparkTSL television and radio provision within certain Wards (of which we have a list of if needed).
- Route to watching TV if unable to walk to a common room – There is a dedicated telephone number available to call the Spark TSL Helpdesk and order television provision where a bedside unit is available.

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