Lothian NHS Board

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

Date 16 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12069

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ABSENCE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to staff absences.

Question:

1. Please provide details of the number of days of nursing and midwifery staff time lost due to absence relating to mental ill health in 2025/26
   Please provide this data broken down by:
   (a) nursing staff days lost
   (b) midwifery staff days lost
   (c) overall total days

Answer:

Table 1: Nursing Only

Job Group	Working Days Lost
Nursing Band 1-4	14,415
Nursing Band 5-+	26,281
Total	**40,696**

Table 2: Midwifery only

Job Group	Working Days Lost
Midwifery Band 1-4	268
Midwifery Band 5+	1,393
Total	**1,661**

Table 3. Overall Nursing/Midwifery

Job Group	Working Days Lost
Nursing/Midwifery Band 1-4	14,683
Nursing/Midwifery Band 5-7	27,674
Total	**42,357**

These figures should be reviewed with reference to the relevant workforce dashboard provided via Turas Data Intelligence - Here is the link to the TURAS Dashboard for Employment tabs for you to reference along: https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-september-2026-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-workforce/?pageid=16876

Select the appropriate Employment Report along with the filters for NHS Board, Job Family and Band/Grade to view inpost figures for relevant job group.

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