Lothian NHS Board

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Date: 19/11/2026
Our Ref: 12135
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – COLORECTAL SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to colorectal surgery in NHS Lothian.

Question:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information regarding major colorectal and abdominal surgical activity undertaken within the Trust during the three financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

1. Major colorectal resections
For each financial year, please provide the number of the following procedures performed:

- Right hemicolectomy
- Extended right hemicolectomy
- Left hemicolectomy
- Sigmoid colectomy
- Anterior/high anterior resection
- Low anterior resection
- Abdominoperineal resection
- Hartmann's procedure
- Hartmann's reversal
- Subtotal colectomy
- Total colectomy
- Proctocolectomy
- Other major colorectal resections, if recorded separately

Where the information is held, please break down each procedure by surgical approach:

- Open
- Laparoscopic
- Robotic
- Laparoscopic converted to open
- Robotic converted to open
- Other/unknown

2. Elective and emergency activity
Where available, please further identify whether these procedures were recorded as:

- Elective
- Emergency/non-elective

3. Surgical indication
Where indication or diagnosis is held in an electronically reportable format, please provide a breakdown of major colorectal resections according to:

- Colorectal cancer
- Diverticular disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Bowel obstruction
- Bowel perforation
- Bowel ischaemia
- Other malignant disease
- Other benign disease

I appreciate that indication may be captured through diagnostic coding rather than a specific surgical indication field. If so, a breakdown according to the diagnostic categories/codes routinely used by the Trust would be appreciated.

4. Conversion to open surgery
For each financial year, please provide:

- Number of laparoscopic colorectal resections converted to open surgery
- Number of robotic colorectal resections converted to open surgery

If the reason for conversion is held within an existing electronically searchable/reportable field, please also provide the available breakdown by reason for conversion.

5. Hospital/site
Where the Trust provides major colorectal across more than one hospital site, please provide the above activity by hospital site, where this information is available.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the attached spreadsheet. I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

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 https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive

Part 1 - Procedure Categories

Procedure Category	OPCS Codes Used
Right hemicolectomy	H07 Other excision of right hemicolon
Extended right hemicolectomy	H06 Extended excision of right hemicolon
Left hemicolectomy	H09 Excision of left hemicolon
Sigmoid colectomy	H10 Excision of sigmoid colon
Abdominoperineal resection	H33.1 Abdominoperineal excision of rectum and end colostomy NEC
Hartmann's procedure	H33.5 Rectosigmoidectomy and closure of rectal stump and exteriorisation of bowel
Subtotal colectomy	H29 Subtotal excision of colon
Total colectomy	H05 Total excision of colon
Proctocolectomy	H04 Total excision of colon and rectum

Anterior Resection

Low/high anterior resection is not coded specifically and so would require examination of patient notes by a clinician to differentiate. These have been grouped into a single category for "anterior resection" using the following codes:
H33.3 Anterior resection of rectum and anastomosis of colon to rectum using staples
H33.4 Anterior resection of rectum and anastomosis NEC
H33.6 Anterior resection of rectum and exteriorisation of bowel

Hartmanns Reversal

Hartmanns reversal is not specifically coded and so would require examination of patient notes by a clinician. Instead data is given for H15.4 Closure of colostomy, under which Hartmanns reversals (and other procedures) may be coded.

Other major colorectal resections

Procedures under the following OPCS codes have been included in this category:
H08 Excision of transverse colon
H11 Other excision of colon
H12 Extirpation of lesion of colon
H13 Bypass of colon
H33.2 Proctectomy and anastomosis of colon to anus
H33.7 Perineal resection of rectum HFQ
H33.8 Other specified
H33.9 Unspecified

Part 2 - Approach Categories

Approach Category	OPCS Codes Used
Open	Y50.2 Laparotomy approach NEC
Laparoscopic	Y75.1 Laparoscopically assisted approach to abdominal cavity Y75.2 Laparoscopic approach to abdominal cavity NEC
Robotic	Y75.3 Robotic assisted laparoscopic approach to abdominal cavity Y76.5 Robotic assisted percutaneous endoscopic approach to other body cavity Y74.3 Robotic assisted thoracoscopic approach to thoracic cavity Y45.2 Robotic assisted approach to organ
Laparoscopic converted to open	Y71.4 Failed percutaneous endoscopic approach converted to open NEC
Robotic converted to open	Y72.1 Failed robotic assisted percutaneous endoscopic approach converted to open

Diagnosis Category	ICD10 Codes Used
Colorectal cancer	C18 Malignant neoplasm of colon C19 Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction C20 Malignant neoplasm of rectum
Diverticular disease	K57 Diverticular disease of intestine
Inflammatory bowel disease	K50 Crohn disease [regional enteritis] K51 Ulcerative colitis
Bowel obstruction	K56 Paralytic ileus and intestinal obstruction without hernia
Bowel perforation	K63.1Perforation of intestine (nontraumatic)
Bowel ischaemia	K55.0 Acute vascular disorders of intestine K55.1 Chronic vascular disorders of intestine K55.8 Other vascular disorders of intestine K55.9 Vascular disorder of intestine, unspecified
Other malignant disease	Any other ICD10 codes that start with "C"
Other benign disease	All other ICD10 codes

Procedures by FY and Approach

Financial Year	Procedure	Laparoscopic	Laparoscopic converted to open	Not known	Open	Robotic	Robotic converted to open
01/04/2023	abdominoperineal resection	6	≤5	16	0	≤5	≤5
01/04/2023	anterior resection	49	9	74	≤5	22	0
01/04/2023	extended right hemicolectomy	10	≤5	17	0	≤5	0
01/04/2023	hartmanns procedure	6	≤5	67	0	≤5	≤5
01/04/2023	closure of colostomy	≤5	0	31	0	0	0
01/04/2023	left hemicolectomy	7	0	11	0	≤5	0
01/04/2023	other resections	14	≤5	43	0	≤5	0
01/04/2023	proctocolectomy	0	0	≤5	0	0	0
01/04/2023	right hemicolectomy	71	20	90	0	34	0
01/04/2023	sigmoid hemicolectomy	≤5	≤5	24	0	≤5	0
01/04/2023	subtotal colectomy	0	0	7	0	0	0
01/04/2023	total colectomy	≤5	≤5	18	≤5	0	0
01/04/2024	abdominoperineal resection	≤5	≤5	12	0	12	0
01/04/2024	anterior resection	47	13	51	0	33	0
01/04/2024	extended right hemicolectomy	11	≤5	14	0	≤5	0
01/04/2024	hartmanns procedure	≤5	≤5	61	0	0	0
01/04/2024	closure of colostomy	≤5	0	28	0	0	0
01/04/2024	left hemicolectomy	7	≤5	10	0	≤5	0
01/04/2024	other resections	12	≤5	45	0	≤5	0
01/04/2024	proctocolectomy	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
01/04/2024	right hemicolectomy	57	16	92	0	19	0
01/04/2024	sigmoid hemicolectomy	7	≤5	20	0	≤5	0
01/04/2024	subtotal colectomy	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	0	0
01/04/2024	total colectomy	6	≤5	8	0	0	0
01/04/2025	abdominoperineal resection	8	0	17	0	10	0
01/04/2025	anterior resection	51	17	36	0	27	0
01/04/2025	extended right hemicolectomy	10	≤5	17	0	≤5	0
01/04/2025	hartmanns procedure	≤5	6	71	≤5	≤5	≤5
01/04/2025	closure of colostomy	0	≤5	26	0	≤5	0
01/04/2025	left hemicolectomy	≤5	8	9	0	≤5	0
01/04/2025	other resections	11	≤5	27	0	≤5	0
01/04/2025	proctocolectomy	0	0	6	0	0	0
01/04/2025	right hemicolectomy	103	20	81	≤5	17	0
01/04/2025	sigmoid hemicolectomy	6	≤5	15	0	≤5	0
01/04/2025	subtotal colectomy	≤5	0	≤5	0	0	0
01/04/2025	total colectomy	≤5	≤5	8	0	0	0

Procedures by FY and Type of Theatre Case

financial_year	procedure	Emergency	Scheduled	Not determined
01/04/2023	abdominoperineal resection	≤5	28	0
01/04/2023	anterior resection	17	138	0
01/04/2023	extended right hemicolectomy	10	22	0
01/04/2023	hartmanns procedure	66	13	0
01/04/2023	closure of colostomy	≤5	32	0
01/04/2023	left hemicolectomy	6	13	0
01/04/2023	other resections	25	38	0
01/04/2023	proctocolectomy	≤5	≤5	0
01/04/2023	right hemicolectomy	69	145	≤5
01/04/2023	sigmoid hemicolectomy	17	13	≤5
01/04/2023	subtotal colectomy	≤5	≤5	0
01/04/2023	total colectomy	12	11	≤5
01/04/2024	abdominoperineal resection	≤5	27	0
01/04/2024	anterior resection	15	129	0
01/04/2024	extended right hemicolectomy	8	19	0
01/04/2024	hartmanns procedure	53	16	≤5
01/04/2024	closure of colostomy	≤5	28	0
01/04/2024	left hemicolectomy	≤5	21	0
01/04/2024	other resections	21	43	0
01/04/2024	proctocolectomy	≤5	≤5	0
01/04/2024	right hemicolectomy	72	110	≤5
01/04/2024	sigmoid hemicolectomy	16	14	0
01/04/2024	subtotal colectomy	≤5	≤5	0
01/04/2024	total colectomy	8	8	0
01/04/2025	abdominoperineal resection	≤5	33	0
01/04/2025	anterior resection	12	118	≤5
01/04/2025	extended right hemicolectomy	12	18	0
01/04/2025	hartmanns procedure	71	16	0
01/04/2025	closure of colostomy	≤5	27	0
01/04/2025	left hemicolectomy	≤5	16	0
01/04/2025	other resections	16	30	0
01/04/2025	proctocolectomy	0	6	0
01/04/2025	right hemicolectomy	79	144	0
01/04/2025	sigmoid hemicolectomy	14	9	0
01/04/2025	subtotal colectomy	≤5	≤5	0
01/04/2025	total colectomy	6	6	0

Admission Diagnoses by FY

Financial Year	Bowel ischaemia	Bowel obstruction	Bowel perforation	Colorectal cancer	Diverticular disease	Infammaory bowel disease	Other benign disease	Other malignant disease
01/04/2023	20	94	20	372	100	55	418	164
01/04/2024	11	98	19	334	93	44	386	154
01/04/2025	17	113	8	378	85	40	426	144

Procedures Converted to Open by FY

Financial Year	Laparoscopic to open	Robotic to open
01/04/2023	46	≤5
01/04/2024	47	0
01/04/2025	60	≤5

Procedures by FY and Hospital

Financial Year	Procedure	Royal Hospital for Children and Young People	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	St John's Hospital	Western General Hospital
01/04/2023	abdominoperineal resection	0	0	0	29
01/04/2023	anterior resection	0	≤5	0	152
01/04/2023	extended right hemicolectomy	0	≤5	0	30
01/04/2023	hartmanns procedure	0	8	0	71
01/04/2023	closure of colostomy	≤5	0	0	31
01/04/2023	left hemicolectomy	≤5	≤5	0	16
01/04/2023	other resections	≤5	12	0	50
01/04/2023	proctocolectomy	0	0	0	≤5
01/04/2023	right hemicolectomy	≤5	21	0	193
01/04/2023	sigmoid hemicolectomy	0	≤5	0	28
01/04/2023	subtotal colectomy	0	≤5	0	≤5
01/04/2023	total colectomy	0	≤5	0	21
01/04/2024	abdominoperineal resection	0	0	0	28
01/04/2024	anterior resection	0	≤5	0	141
01/04/2024	extended right hemicolectomy	0	0	0	27
01/04/2024	hartmanns procedure	0	10	0	60
01/04/2024	closure of colostomy	6	≤5	0	22
01/04/2024	left hemicolectomy	0	≤5	0	22
01/04/2024	other resections	≤5	9	≤5	53
01/04/2024	proctocolectomy	0	0	0	≤5
01/04/2024	right hemicolectomy	≤5	18	0	165
01/04/2024	sigmoid hemicolectomy	≤5	≤5	0	27
01/04/2024	subtotal colectomy	0	≤5	0	≤5
01/04/2024	total colectomy	0	≤5	0	14
01/04/2025	abdominoperineal resection	0	0	0	35
01/04/2025	anterior resection	0	≤5	0	127
01/04/2025	extended right hemicolectomy	0	≤5	0	28
01/04/2025	hartmanns procedure	0	≤5	0	82
01/04/2025	closure of colostomy	6	0	0	23
01/04/2025	left hemicolectomy	0	≤5	0	20
01/04/2025	other resections	≤5	≤5	0	40
01/04/2025	proctocolectomy	0	0	0	6
01/04/2025	right hemicolectomy	≤5	9	0	213
01/04/2025	sigmoid hemicolectomy	0	≤5	0	21
01/04/2025	subtotal colectomy	0	≤5	0	≤5
01/04/2025	total colectomy	0	≤5	0	10