

Date: 11 October 2024  
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2024-000332  
Email: [NSS.DevServicesFOI@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.DevServicesFOI@nhs.scot)

**Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2024-000332 – Gender Identity Clinic Funding.**

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 24th September 2024.

**I was at a GIC appointment a couple weeks ago. I asked about a referral for gender affirming surgery. I was told that NHS Lothian had stopped giving funding for that care and those referrals.**

**I am looking for information on this and nothing is easily found. Could you point me towards anything about this for more information?**

**This is absolutely terrible as this is refusing care to a vulnerable group of people. This is outright discrimination based on a report that said nothing about refusing surgery to adults.**

We have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

**I am looking for information on this (Gender affirming surgery funding) and nothing is easily found. Could you point me towards anything about this for more information?**

National Services Directorate (NSD), a body within NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) works very closely with NHS England commissioners and the Gender Dysphoria National Referral Support Service (GNRDSS) to ensure that patients in Scotland have national funding in place to be treated where an appropriate application has been made by their Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) to support this. Patients in Scotland have equity of access to all gender surgical services that are provided in England. This includes masculinising chest reconstruction surgery, feminising genital surgeries and masculinising genital surgeries.

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act, 2002 (FOISA) an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. NSS do not provide nor commission the Gender Identity Clinic in NHS Lothian, therefore do not hold any information which relates to the NHS Lothian GIC and the clinical services which it provides, or any local policies that are in place. We would suggest that you contact NHS Lothian directly who would be better placed to provide you with the information that you are requesting - [foi@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Governance and Board Services (Board Secretary) at the email address [nss.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.foi@nhs.scot) within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.



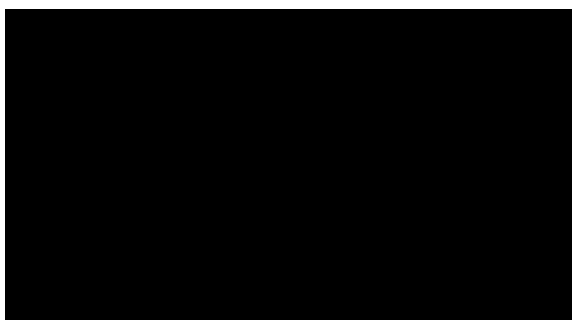
Chair Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the  
Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service*

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online application form](#).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,



Chair                      Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive        Mary Morgan

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