Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ASSAULTS MIXED SEX WARDS

I write in response to your email request of 10 March 2010 (received 11 March 2010) for information in relation to assaults in mixed sex wards over the last 10 years.

I have been provided with information in relation to your request by Mr Joe Skinner, Risk Manager – NHS Lothian.

- A breakdown of the number of mixed sex wards in your hospitals for each of the past ten years.

  Information in relation to the number of mixed sex ward is not held as far back as 10 years. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must inform you that NHS Lothian do not hold this information.

- An annual breakdown of reported sexual assaults on mixed sex wards in your hospitals for each of the past ten years.

  Within the risk management system “mixed ward” is not recorded within any of the fields. In order to access this information NHS Lothian would have to extract information from individual files. To provide the detail required would involve large numbers of files and the level of work required to extract this detail would take NHS Lothian over the £600 threshold as set out in the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

- An annual breakdown of reported sexual assaults in the last 10 years on mixed sex wards in your hospitals where the victim was a patient and the perpetrator was a patient.

  As stated in point two.

- An annual breakdown of reported sexual assaults in the last 10 years on mixed sex wards in your hospitals where the victim was a patient and the perpetrator was a member of staff.

  As stated in point two.
• An annual breakdown of reported sexual assaults in the last 10 years on mixed sex wards in your hospitals where the victim was a member of staff and the perpetrator was a patient.

As stated in point two.

I am sorry I cannot help more 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.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to Mr I Whyte, FOI Reviewer at the address at the foot page one of this letter. The review will be undertaken by Mr Whyte as he was not involved in the original decision making process. A request for review must be made within 40 working days.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian’s Freedom of Information website at:– http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/your_rights/foi/foi_09.asp.

Yours sincerely

ALAN BOYTER
Director of Human Resources
and Organisational Development
Cc: Chief Executive