

Date: 06 October 2025
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2025-000293
Email: NSS.DevServicesFOI@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2025-000293 – NHS Forth Valley Hospital.

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 16 September 2025 requesting the following information.

Can you advise why the new treatment centre at Forth Valley Hospital remains closed despite being due to open in 2022?

What are the building control issues that remain unresolved? Why has it only one lift when NHS guidance mandates that there should be two in case one breaks down or is out of use due to maintenance? Should you not have been warning about this and other issues at the design stage, otherwise what is the point of NHS Assure?

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

Can you advise why the new treatment centre at Forth Valley Hospital remains closed despite being due to open in 2022?

Under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act, 2002 (FOISA) an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) do not hold the requested information. NHS Forth Valley would be best placed to answer the queries raised, particularly with regards to a full reasoning why it hasn't yet opened. NHSScotland Assure (NHSSA) part of NSS are aware that the National Treatment Centre at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital campus has not yet been granted a habitation certificate and we understand discussions in that regard are ongoing with the verifier.

What are the building control issues that remain unresolved?

Under Section 17(1) of FOISA an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. NSS do not hold the requested information. NHS Forth Valley would be best placed to answer the queries raised. NHSSA are aware that there are outstanding points relating to fire safety and the designs adherence to section 2 of the non-domestic building standards, particularly in relation to mandatory standards sections 2.1 and 2.9.

Why has it only one lift when NHS guidance mandates that there should be two in case one breaks down or is out of use due to maintenance? Should you not have been warning about this and other issues at the design stage, otherwise what is the point of NHS Assure?

The Scottish Health Technical Memorandum 08-02 states in section 3.8 *'Wherever possible, lifts should be provided, at least, in pairs to provide service in the event of breakdown or unavailability for maintenance or inspection. Where this is not possible, an alternative lift should be available from the same level in a nearby location.'* Notwithstanding this, NHSSA did not review the provision of lifts as



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*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the
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part of the Key Stage Assurance Review as it does not impact on the means of escape from the National Treatment Centre and the new facility ties in with existing lifts serving the main hospital.

The role of NHSSA with, regards to assessment and assurance at design stage, is noted within the publicly available Key Stage Assurance Review (KSAR) Workbooks and NHSScotland Design Assessment Process (NDAP) Guide. At this time the KSAR for this project remains unsupported, primarily in relation to the unresolved building control issues noted above. NHSSA has not received a request for an NDAP from Scottish Government or NHS Forth Valley for this project.

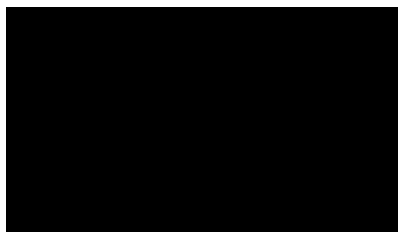
I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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 within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

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
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