

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEUROLOGY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to neurology services within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. The average waiting time in each year since 2017 in the health board area for neurology patients for an appointment with a:
 - a. Consultant neurologist
 - b. MS Nurse
 - c. Physiotherapist
 - d. Occupational Therapist
 - e. Psychologist
 - f. Neuropsychologist

Answer:

a.	3 weeks for MS consultant / 33 weeks for general neurology consultant
b.	3 weeks
c.	2 weeks for urgent referrals / 7 weeks for all other referrals working alongside Edinburgh HSCP with a total of 88 patients on the waiting list. This waiting list performance has been relatively static over past 18 months and an improvement on performance from the previous 5 years.
d.	19 weeks for OT within Physical Disabilities OT team
e.	It would be either a clinical psychologist (e) or a neuropsychologist a patient would see. The average wait times between 2017 and present have ranged from 8 to 52 weeks in this period. The current wait is 14 weeks for routine patients and 4 weeks for priority ('urgent') patients. Some patients with MS will be seen by neuropsychology in rehabilitation services (e.g. at the Astley Ainslie Hospital, or in CRABIS, the brain injury community team in West Lothian): wait times here are similar. We do not routinely calculate annual average waiting time.
f.	Please see above (e)

Question:

2. The number of vacancies in the health board area in the following positions:

- a. Consultant neurologist
- b. MS Nurse
- c. Physiotherapist
- d. Occupational Therapist
- e. Psychologist
- f. Neuropsychologist

and 2. (b) How many of these posts have been vacant for six months or longer?

Answer:

a.	1 unfilled post for a neurologist within neuromuscular subspeciality
b.	0
c.	1
d.	0
e.	0
f.	0
2.b.	1 unfilled post for a neurologist within neuromuscular subspeciality – 6 months unfilled

Question:

3. Does the health board provide a specialist service for MS and/or neurology patients in

- a. Physiotherapy
- b. Psychology
- c. Occupational Therapy

and 3. (b) what is the waiting time for an appointment with these services?

Answer:

a.	Yes, specialist services for neurology/MS patients are available
b.	Yes, specialist services for neurology/MS patients are available
c.	Yes, specialist services for neurology/MS patients are available
3.b.	Not specified

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
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Cc: Chief Executive