

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GIC**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the Gender Identity Clinic within NHS Lothian

**Question:**

1. *Monthly* figures for the period inclusive of July 2022 - March 2024 detailing:
  - a. Total number of persons *on* the service’s waiting list;
    - i. Of this total, the number on the ‘Standard’ waiting list; and
    - ii. Of this total, the number on the ‘Priority’ waiting list.
  - b. Number of new persons *added to* the service’s waiting list:
    - i. Of this total, the number placed on the ‘Standard’ waiting list; and
    - ii. Of this total, the number placed on the ‘Priority’ waiting list.
  - c. Total number of persons *seen for first appointments*
    - i. Of this total, the number placed on the ‘Priority’ waiting list.
  - d. The number of patients who, at the time of their first appointment, had *already received a diagnosis* of Gender Incongruence/Gender Dysphoria previously— for example, from a licensed physician practicing privately within the United Kingdom or a licensed physician practicing in a person’s former country of residence.

**Answer:**

a.	i.	Lothian Sexual & Reproductive Health services (LSRHS) are unable to provide retrospective data in the way requested, i.e. in a monthly breakdown. The waiting list is a live document/process that is updated on a working-day daily basis; therefore, we cannot retrospectively analysis the data on a month by month breakdown. As of 02/04/2024 there are 869 patients on the waiting list.
	ii.	LSRHS do not hold a ‘priority’ waiting list.
b.	i.	This data is presented quarterly and is in the public domain: ** <a href="https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/">https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/</a>
	ii.	LSRHS do not hold a ‘priority’ waiting list.
c.		The data for number of first appointments offered are presented quarterly in the public domain: ** <a href="https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/">https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/</a>

		<a href="#">identity-clinic-data/</a>
c.	i.	LSRHS do not hold a 'priority' waiting list.
d.		LSRHS do not routinely record these types of data

Question:

2. For persons assessed at the service from the 'Standard' waiting list, please provide the mean and/or median number of days between the following:
- e. Placement on waiting list and first appointment;
  - f. First appointment and confirmation of diagnosis;
  - g. Confirmation of diagnosis & prescription of HRT;
  - h. Confirmation of diagnosis & referral for 'top surgery'; and
  - i. Confirmation of diagnosis & referral for 'lower surgery.'

Answer:

e.	This data is in the public domain presented as annual mean from 2016 to 2023: ** <a href="https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/">https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/</a>
f.	LSRHS do not routinely record these types of data*
g.	LSRHS do not routinely record these types of data*
h.	LSRHS do not routinely record these types of data*
i.	LSRHS do not routinely record these types of data*

Question:

3. While understanding that individual wait times are variable, please provide the service's *current best projection* of when a person placed on the 'standard' waiting list in the first quarter of 2024 (January – March) can expect to be seen for a first appointment.

Answer:

LSRHS is currently 24months from being added to the waiting list to be seen for a first appointment. These data are routinely updated and presented on our website:  
\*\*<https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/>

Question:

4. Given patients' right under the NHS Constitution to a no-greater-than 18-month wait between a GP's referral and treatment for 'non-urgent' conditions; and given recent Prevention of Future Deaths Reports in which coroners identify very long wait times for youth and adult GIS services as probable contributory factors in the deaths of several transgender persons, please provide details of the plans the Trust / GIC will implement to abide by these patient rights and decrease the time persons spend on the service's waiting lists. Please provide details of when these plans will be put into effect. Please quantify, if possible, their projected effects on waiting times.

Answer:

The Scottish Government has published their NHS Gender Identity services: strategic action framework 2022-2024, which LSRHS are working towards implementing locally to reduce

waiting times for their catchment area. Over the past two years LSRHS have employed additional administrative and clinical staff as part of this strategic action framework with a view to reduce waiting times for service-users, to date we have reduced our waiting times by 12 months. LSRHS do not yet have projected model on the impact of waiting times these additional resources have going forward.

Data requested either is not routinely recorded in the format the requestor wishes or is already presented in the public domain: <https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/gender-identity-clinic/gender-identity-clinic-data/>; therefore, we have not utilised the spreadsheet you provided.

\*Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patient waits over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

\*\*This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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](http://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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
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Cc: Chief Executive