

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BIOPSIES**

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

Question:

- Can I request the following, for each of the last five financial years (2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 – most recent):
  1. What was the median (in days) for a **punch biopsy** test result, from the point of the test being carried out to the test results being analysed?
  2. What was the longest wait (in days) for a **punch biopsy** test result, from the point of the test being carried out to the test results being analysed?
  3. What was the median (in days) for a **needle biopsy** test result, from the point of the test being carried out to the test results being analysed?
  4. What was the longest wait (in days) for a **needle biopsy** test result, from the point of the test being carried out to the test results being analysed?

Can I request that this data is provided in Excel format?

Answer:

Biopsy Type	Median duration (days)					Max duration (days)					
	Financial Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2019/20	2021/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
NEEDLE		7	6	6	6	7	106	81	56	53	51
PUNCH		27	17	20	20	24	120	89	96	113	119

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



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Waverley Gate  
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Calum Campbell  
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

[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**  
**Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive