

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CATARACT REMOVAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cataract removal.

Question:

- What is the current average waiting time for cataract removal surgery within Lothian NHS? Waiting time being the time between initial referral and the cataract operation being carried out.

Answer:

Current Waits

LOCAL PROCEDURE	Patients Waiting	Average Wait (days)
2nd Eye Cataract Treatment	362	76.2
Cataract Treatment	465	81.0

These figures;

Include Inpatients with local procedures of Cataract Treatment and 2nd Eye Cataract Treatment and a True waiting list type

Include a count of unique waiting list entry identifier as number of waits

Include 90th percentile instead of longest wait

Current waits are those still on the waiting list at time of extraction

To protect the identity of the individuals involved we have used the 98th percentile in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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