

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WET-AMD INJECTIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to wet-AMD injections.

Question:

1. What is the maximum number of wet-AMD injections you can facilitate in a week?

Answer:

20 lists per week across Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion (PAEP) (16) and St John's Hospital (4), 14 injections per list

Question:

2. A. Do you run out-of-hours lists to keep up with demand for wet-AMD injections?
B) If you are running additional lists, how are these lists being accommodated?
C) If you are running additional lists, are you utilising any alternative clinical space?

Answer:

a.	Previously yes.
b.	The lists were carried out by our own Ophthalmology nursing staff.
c.	No, all additional lists took place in PAEP

Question:

3. A) What is the current waiting time for patients to secure an appointment for Wet- AMD injections? B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?
4. How many patients are currently waiting for an appointment at a wet-AMD clinic? B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?

Answer:

The patients on TRAK based on further discussion with Loraine, unfortunately these patients do not go on a waiting list as such, they are booked asap into an appointment. The data is not recorded in such a way for me to pull back a waiting time.

This information is not held in a centrally extractable format. 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 patients 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.

Question:

5. Do you have a contingency plan to increase capacity should this be required? B) If so, what is your contingency plan for wet-AMD injections? -

Answer:

a.	We are revising our criteria and guidelines for IVT to ensure all patients meet this
b.	As above

Question:

6. Are you outsourcing any ophthalmology clinical work to external parties or utilising insourcing partners? If so, what?

Answer:

No

Question:

7. What condition takes up the majority of your clinical slots? -

Answer:

All of our clinic slots are full within each sub-specialty

Question:

8. Would you consider a mobile unit as an option to expand services and capacity?

Answer:

We would be happy to consider feasible options

Question:

9. What is the name and contact details of the Ophthalmology Service Lead?

Answer:

Karen McCabe, Clinical Service Manager

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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