

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DELAYED DISCHARGE

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

Question:

- Please provide, annually, from 2015 to present, the number of patients who died in a facility run by your health board whilst delayed in being discharged. For each of these years, please also provide the longest delay that had been faced by a patient that died in that year whilst delayed in being discharged.

Answer:

Year	Number of patients who died in delay	90% percentile for delays (days) for patients identified in previous column
2017	78	*
2018	76	54
2019	57	48
2020	20	57
2021	42	68
2022	54	91
2023	42	88

Delay codes used according to PHS definition: 11A, 11B, 23C, 23D, 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E, 24F, 25A, 25D, 25E, 25F, 27A, 51, 52, 61, 67, 71, 72, 73, 74, 44, and 9 codes (ie excluding 100 codes)

Only including patients >=18 years according to PHS definition

*Delayed Discharge information moved to a new system at the end of 2016 so we only hold readily accessible complete information from 2017 onwards

Please note that we have provided the 90% percentile so that identities of individual patients are concealed. 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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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