

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING LIST DEATHS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to patients who died while on a waiting list.

Question:

- I would like information regarding the number of patients who have died whilst on a waiting list for either treatment or tests.

As such, can I request the following, for the financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and the most recent data for 2024/25:

1. The total number of patients who have been removed from an NHS waiting list because they have died, with a breakdown of how long they were on the waiting list.

Answer:

Type	Wait_Group	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Diagnostic Test	<12weeks	293	307	413	404	399	58
Diagnostic Test	12-52weeks	74	175	122	153	129	16
Diagnostic Test	>52weeks	31	44	42	51	14	5<
Inpatient	<12weeks	168	172	177	242	203	44
Inpatient	12-52weeks	48	107	111	192	159	25
Inpatient	>52weeks	5<	19	44	87	70	17
Total		*	824	909	1129	974	*

Notes

New waiting lists only as length of wait requested

Individuals may have been waiting for more than one inpatient admission or diagnostic test

REASON_FOR_REMOVAL = 'Deceased patient'

LIST_TYPE_ID = "LAIWL" THEN 'Inpatient'

WAITING_TIME_STANDARD_CODE in ("050","051","052") THEN 'Diagnostic Test'

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Interim Chief Executive Jim Crombie
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board



To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown 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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive