

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – AUDIOLOGY APPOINTMENT.

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

Question:

1. How many people were on a waiting list for an audiology appointment at the end of January 2025 (if possible please give the number as it stood at January 31 or closest to that date from figures available)?

Answer:

Adult Audiology has recently integrated into TRAK as January 2025. Due to this transition, our waiting list data is not yet fully available. I have been advised that this information will be start transferring from the end of February. Please come back at a later date for this information.

Question:

2. What does the board estimate to be the average waiting times for each of the following audiology appointment groups: a) audiology assessment (first contact) appointment, b) assessment to fitting of hearing aid(s), c) assessment to treatment (excluding fitting of hearing aids).

Answer:

I must advise that estimates are not covered under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 only factually accurate recorded information. As stated above this is not yet available.

Question:

3. The national target in Scotland is 18 weeks for Referral to Treatment. Using your latest recorded figures please state the percentage (%) of patients that were seen within the national target waiting time and the time period to which this figure refers.

Answer:

The figures below are for adult audiology for its December 2024 RTT position:

Headquarters
Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

Adult

< 18weeks	373
18w - < 26weeks	18
26weeks+	365
Total	756
%<18weeks	49.3%

I am sorry I cannot help further with your request at this time.

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
Cc: Chief Executive