

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PULMONARY REHABILITATION**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to pulmonary rehabilitation waiting times in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many people were waiting to access pulmonary rehabilitation each month from January 2022 to December 2024?
2. What the average waiting time per patient accessing pulmonary rehabilitation is?

Answer:

The table below details the waiting time and the number of patients waiting for pulmonary rehabilitation.

Pulmonary rehabilitation waiting times, NHS Lothian		
Month end	Number of patients waiting	Average wait (weeks)
31/01/2022	483	16.7
28/02/2022	500	16.7
31/03/2022	506	26.4
30/04/2022	498	33.0
31/05/2022	521	34.2
30/06/2022	550	24.3
31/07/2022	574	27.8
31/08/2022	585	29.7
30/09/2022	569	35.0
31/10/2022	547	27.6
30/11/2022	574	26.6
31/12/2022	595	26.9
31/01/2023	647	26.8
28/02/2023	660	19.4
31/03/2023	723	24.3
30/04/2023	745	31.0
31/05/2023	765	29.6

<b>Pulmonary rehabilitation waiting times, NHS Lothian</b>		
<b>Month end</b>	<b>Number of patients waiting</b>	<b>Average wait (weeks)</b>
30/06/2023	785	29.2
31/07/2023	811	29.3
31/08/2023	814	27.3
30/09/2023	798	28.4
31/10/2023	761	30.9
30/11/2023	741	26.5
31/12/2023	727	26.9
31/01/2024	711	29.2
29/02/2024	694	30.2
31/03/2024	727	28.1
30/04/2024	707	26.7
31/05/2024	735	23.3
30/06/2024	704	25.4
31/07/2024	748	21.3
31/08/2024	796	20.1
30/09/2024	748	22.8
31/10/2024	709	26.7
30/11/2024	684	27.0
31/12/2024	702	21.1

Question:

3. What is the longest waiting time for a patient accessing pulmonary rehabilitation for each quarter since January 2022?

Answer:

The table below shows the 95th percentile wait for pulmonary rehabilitation. The 95th percentile is the number of weeks by which 95% of patients have started treatment.

<b>Pulmonary rehabilitation 95th percentile waiting time, NHS Lothian</b>	
<b>Quarter end</b>	<b>95th percentile wait (weeks)</b>
31/03/2022	63.8
30/06/2022	65.8
30/09/2022	63.9
31/12/2022	43.4
31/03/2023	44.6
30/06/2023	46.9
30/09/2023	47.7
31/12/2023	50.8
31/03/2024	49.6
30/06/2024	47.7

<b>Pulmonary rehabilitation 95th percentile waiting time, NHS Lothian</b>	
<b>Quarter end</b>	<b>95th percentile wait (weeks)</b>
30/09/2024	48.6
31/12/2024	49.9

Question:

4. How many vacancies there are for staff working in pulmonary rehabilitation, broken down by grade and band?

Answer:

There is currently 1.6 WTE vacancy at band 4.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
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Cc: Chief Executive