

Date 07/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9847

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Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OSTEOTOMIES**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Osteotomies.

Question:

- How many Osteotomies have been conducted within your Health Board over the last five years.
- What is the average length of wait for such a procedure within this time period?
- What are the number of Osteotomies conducted as a result of broken bones which have been left untreated (i.e., how many Osteotomies are conducted on people who have recent - say in the last three years - previous broken bones).

Answer:

Year	Osteotomies Performed	Average Days Waiting	Osteotomies due to Malunions / Nonunions
2020	129	146	14
2021	123	270	16
2022	154	276	10
2023	245	267	10
2024	225	204	26

The above table shows:

1. The number of osteotomy procedures performed in NHS Lothian during the 5-year period that includes the calendar years 2020 to 2024.
2. The average waiting time (in days) for those osteotomy procedures that were performed during a planned admission that was recorded on the waiting list.
3. The number of osteotomy procedures in the period that were performed specifically to correct a fracture malunion or nonunion (based on clinical coding after the procedure was performed).

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

Note that we cannot provide a fuller answer to Q3 since this would require persons of suitable expertise to go through each patients records individually to precisely determine whether a prior fracture was related to the osteotomy.

In this analysis, osteotomies were identified as those procedures which had been assigned an OPCS4 procedure description by clinical coders that contained the text "osteotomy".

Malunions and nonunions were identified from ICD10 descriptions assigned by clinical coders to the inpatient stays (corresponding to the osteotomy procedures defined above) that contained the text "malunion" or "nonunion".

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](http://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**  
Cc: Chief Executive