

Date 04/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9852

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to orthopaedic wait times.

Question:

- Can you tell me what criteria is used or what the reason could be for a shorter wait time to see a consultant which resulted in a referral to the waiting list 2 months before me?
- What is the criteria which determines the waiting time for an orthopaedic consultation? Why would it be different in some cases?

Answer:

We are not able to provide individual information in relation to specific patients treatment and waits, as there are many factors that influence differences in waits.

For example:-

Routine and urgent priority patients will have different lengths of waiting time. Other factors will include the joint that they have been listed for, if the patient requires their procedures with a specific consultant, if the patient meets criteria to be offered an appointment at an external provider and if they have any co-morbidities.

Question:

- What is the average wait time from GP referral to the point of being added to the waiting list for hip replacement by council area within NHS Lothian?

Answer:

Average Time from referral to appointment (days) split by Council Area

Council Area	Time from referral to appointment (days)
City of Edinburgh	185.8
East Lothian	182.9
Midlothian	189.1

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

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

West Lothian	187.7
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These figures;

Include all new outpatients under the 'Arthroplasty New' service and a referral source of GP where appointment date was between '01-Mar-2024' AND '31-Mar-2025'

Also note the 'Arthroplasty New' service is for patients who go onto get both Hip and Knee replacements.

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
Cc: Chief Executive