

Date 22/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9906

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAIT LISTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to waiting lists within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Do any of the following clinical services operate from a “partially booked service” model?*

Answer:

I am advised this is an NHS England system not operated within the NHS in Scotland in a centrally extractable format. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

2. Please provide the total number of patients who have been removed from the waiting list due to breach of the trusts access policy in the last year

Answer:

New outpatient waiting list records removed from the waiting list with a Declined Reasonable Offer/Unavailability > 24 weeks/Did Not Respond/DNA/CNA (multiple)/ removal reason in 2024

| Service/Dept | Removals |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| General Surgery Service | 1,647 |
| Urology Service | 770 |
| Trauma and Orthopaedic Service | 1,428 |
| Ear Nose and Throat Service | 1,858 |

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*

| | |
|--|--------|
| Ophthalmology Service | 3,069 |
| Oral Surgery Service | 942 |
| Neurosurgical Service | 282 |
| Plastic Surgery Service | 1,084 |
| Cardiothoracic Surgery Service | 15 |
| General Internal Medicine Service | 209 |
| Gastroenterology Service | 1,056 |
| Cardiology Service | 1,815 |
| Dermatology Service | 2,366 |
| Respiratory Medicine Service | 926 |
| Neurology Service | 752 |
| Rheumatology Service | 775 |
| Elderly Medicine Service | 17 |
| Gynaecology Service | 2,354 |
| Other - Medical Services | 3,263 |
| Other - Mental Health Services | 8,722 |
| Other - Paediatric Services | 875 |
| Other - Surgical Services | 1,388 |
| Other - Other Services | 29,376 |
| Radiology/Imaging | 5,084 |
| Respiratory physiology - Sleep Studies | 1,875 |
| Urodynamics - Pressures & Flows | 45 |
| Endoscopy | 603 |
| Average | 2,689 |

Source: TRAK ORACLE ****Please note that this analysis comes from a LIVE System - if this analysis were to be re-run at a later date the figures may be subject to change.***

Date Extracted: 15/04/25

Notes

New outpatient waiting list records only

Waiting list records removed with a Declined Reasonable Offer/Unavailability > 24 weeks/Did Not Respond/DNA/CNA (multiple)/ removal reason

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