

Date: 28/05/2025
Our Ref: 10040
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DEMENTIA WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to waiting times for dementia diagnosis in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Please provide the current waiting times for patients referred to specialist services in NHS Lothian with symptoms of dementia. Please tell me the current waiting times for those currently on the waiting list for their initial appointment broken down by median wait, 90th percentile and maximum wait if possible.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Current waiting times for dementia referrals, NHS Lothian	
	Waiting time
Median wait	15 weeks
90th percentile wait	30 weeks
Longest wait	55 weeks

Question:

2. Please also tell me the number of patients currently on the waiting list for an initial appointment with specialist services following a GP referral in relation to symptoms of dementia.

Answer:

653 patients are currently waiting following referral from their GP.

Question:

3. If you are able to also provide the waiting times experienced by the same category of patients seen during the last quarter of 2024, again broken down by median wait, 90th percentile and maximum wait if possible, that would also be helpful.

Answer:

The table below shows waiting times for patients who received their first appointment between 1 October and 31 December 2024.

Dementia referral waiting times, October-December 2024	
	Waiting time
Median wait	10 weeks
90th percentile wait	25 weeks
Longest wait	39 weeks

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive