

Date 28/05/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10041

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HERNIA WAITS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to hernia waits.

### Question:

- For each **calendar year** from 2019 to 2025 (most recent):
  1. the total number of referrals for an inguinal hernia repair
  2. the median completed wait (in days) for an inguinal hernia repair.
  3. the longest completed waited (in days) for an inguinal hernia repair.
  4. the median ongoing wait (in days) for an inguinal hernia repair.
  5. the longest ongoing wait (in days) for an inguinal hernia repair.

### Answer:

#### Additions to the waiting list

CALENDAR_YEAR	Additions
2019	946
2020	495
2021	522
2022	897
2023	1002
2024	728
2025*	259

#### Completed Waits

CALENDAR_YEAR	COMPLETED SURGERIES	MEDIAN WAIT (DAYS)	98th PERCENTILE
2019	609	152	315.5
2020	272	206	457.5
2021	331	151	730.0

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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*

2022	283	380	1099.6
2023	492	402	1116.8
2024	545	611	830.7
2025*	193	617	838.6

## Current Waits

PATIENTS WAITING	MEDIAN WAIT (DAYS)	98th PERCENTILE
862	320	742.6

## Notes

*Completed waits from the waiting list from '01,Jan,2019' and '28,Apr,2025' \**

*Only includes completed waits where the Local Procedure was 'Inguinal Hernia Repair'*

*Current Waits are those still on the waiting list on date of data extraction*

To protect the identity of the individuals involved we have used the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile in this response. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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