

Date 28/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10050

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to psychiatric patients.

Question:

- Please provide me with the number of discharged psychiatric patients (i.e General Psychiatry; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Forensic Psychiatry; Psychiatry of Old Age; Learning Disability; and Psychotherapy) in a)2022/23, b) 2023/24 and c) 2024/25 who received a follow-up appointment with community mental health services i) within 7 days, ii) within 10 days, iii) within 14 days and iv) longer than 14 days

Answer:

Discharge Year	Within 7 days	Within 10 days	Within 14 days	>14 days
2024/25	850	95	64	243
2023/24	922	104	77	278
2022/23	1,007	76	87	331

Question:

- Please provide me with the longest time between discharge and follow up with community mental health services for discharged psychiatric patients in a)2022/23, b) 2023/24 and c) 2024/25

Answer:

Discharge Year	95th Percentile (days to FU)*
2024/25	58
2023/24	99
2022/23	140

*Please see note 2 on the data.

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

Question:

3. Please provide me with the average time between discharge and follow up with community mental health services for discharged psychiatric patients in in a)2022/23, b) 2023/24 and c) 2024/25

Answer:

Discharge Year	Av. Days to follow up
2024/25	14
2023/24	21
2022/23	31

Notes on the data:

1. "Psychotherapy" is not an inpatient service and is therefore not included in the response.
2. We are aware of errors in the data due to the linkage of the Inpatient discharge episode and the outpatient community episode. It is therefore likely that the reported data is in a number of cases overstating the length of time between discharge and follow up contact. To mitigate against this in reporting the longest wait we have reported the 9th percentile. i.e. 95% of patients were seen within this number of days.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved we have used the 95th percentile. 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. 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