

Date 30/05/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10059

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MS WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to MS waiting times.

Question:

1. **Neurology**

- Current waiting time for an initial neurology appointment
- Current waiting time for a review/follow-up neurology appointment

Answer:

General neurology consultant new waiting times are between 20-25 weeks.
General neurology consultant return waiting times are at eight weeks.

Question:

2. **MS Specialist Nurses**

- Current waiting time for first appointment with an MS specialist nurse
- Current waiting time for a review/follow-up appointment with an MS specialist nurse

Answer:

MS nurse specialist new waiting times are at three weeks.
MS nurse specialist return waiting times are at six weeks.

Question:

3. **Physiotherapy**

- Current waiting time for first physiotherapy appointment
- Current waiting time for a follow-up/review physiotherapy appointment

4. **Occupational Therapy**

- Current waiting time for first occupational therapy appointment
- Current waiting time for a follow-up/ review occupational therapy appointment

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*

Answer:

WEST:

West Lothian HSCP does not provide dedicated MS outpatient Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy services. Patients with MS access our Community Rehabilitation OT and PT service and Core MSK Physiotherapy and currently waiting times for all are within 12 weeks for routine care.

ACUTE:

We do not provide MS outpatient services for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

MIDLOTHIAN:

- **Neurology** - Within Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (MHSCP), we do not have a neurology specific service. We can provide generalist care with direct access to the wider NHS Lothian Neurology service.
- **MS Specialist Nurses:** Within MHSCP we do not have dedicated specialist MS nurses. Care is provided via our nursing pathways with specialist input via our NHS Lothian team within neurology
- **Physiotherapy:**
 - MSK Physiotherapy MSK urgent New Patient 3-4 weeks, Routine referrals are 20 weeks
 - Return Physiotherapy MSK 1-2 weeks decision depending on clinical presentation and other factors so may vary
- **Occupational Therapy**
 - The longest wait for OT within the Physical Disabilities and Long-Term Conditions (PD LTC) team is 51 weeks for initial appointment, but there is some risk stratification so would be dependent on individual factors. Our median wait time is 25 weeks
 - Return Occupational Therapy appointments for the PD LTC team are likely to be after 1-2 weeks, however this will be based on individual clinical presentation and need so may vary

EAST:

Please note our occupational therapy and physiotherapy service pathways are not aligned to health conditions, therefore we have limited meaningful data relating to specific diagnoses. We anticipate that people with MS may access occupational therapy and physiotherapy via our generic service pathways, however we do have two neurological services and a portion of the people accessing these pathways would have MS. Please find data related to the neurological pathways below:

- Pan Lothian Physiotherapy Neurological out-patient service (Astley Ainsley Hospital)
 - Current waiting time for first physiotherapy appointment - 8 weeks

- Current waiting time for a follow-up/review physiotherapy appointment - patients will get followed up/reviewed as required, this is part of their episode of care once seen
- Pan Lothian Occupational Therapy Neurological out-patient service (Astley Ainsley Hospital)
 - Current waiting time for first occupational therapy appointment - 1 week
 - Current waiting time for a follow-up/review occupational therapy appointment - patients will get followed up/reviewed as required, this is part of their episode of care once seen
- East Lothian Physiotherapy Neurological out-patient service
 - Current waiting time for first physiotherapy appointment - 6 weeks
 - Current waiting time for a follow-up/review physiotherapy appointment - patients will get followed up/reviewed as required, this is part of their episode of care once seen

EDINBURGH:

- **Neurology** - Within Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP), we do not have a specific neurology service. We can provide generalist care through our Community Rehabilitation Services with direct access to the wider NHS Lothian Neurology service.
- **MS Specialist Nurses:** Within EHSCP we do not have dedicated specialist MS nurses. Care is provided via our various nursing pathways with specialist input via our NHS Lothian team within neurology.
- **Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy**

There are various services in Edinburgh through which Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy can be accessed including via the Community Rehabilitation Teams and Intermediate Care Teams. There are various access routes, available to people living with MS, and all are based on screening and assessment of clinical need, prioritisation and risk stratification. Services can be accessed as early as 2 days from referral when clinically indicated. Other waiting times are all within 12 weeks for routine care.

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