

Date 11/06/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10099

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - AUDIOLOGY SERVICES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Audiology Services.

Question:

1. Audiology waiting times – Please provide the average and maximum waiting times for patients referred to audiology services within your health board, broken down by:
 - a. Initial assessment/consultation
 - b. Diagnostic testing
 - c. Hearing aid fitting (if applicable)
 - d. Follow-up appointments
2. Time period – Please include data for each of the last 12 months available, ideally presented monthly or quarterly.
3. Patient numbers – For each of the service stages listed above, please also provide the number of patients currently waiting and the number seen during each reporting period.
4. Longest wait – Please specify the longest individual waiting time experienced by a patient within the reporting period.

Answer:

1. Wait times

	Average Wait (days)	Max Wait (days)	Total Number on List
Initial Assessment (Direct Referral)	317	374	4,529
Diagnostic (Balance)	77	77	9
Diagnostic (Evoked Potentials)	111	111	5<
Hearing Aid Fitting	23	33	486
Follow Up	5	42	5<

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

2. Time Period

Average Wait (weeks)	April 2025	March 2025	Feb 2025	Jan 2025	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	Sept 2024	Aug 2025	July 2024	June 2024	May 2024
Initial Assessment (Direct Referral)	45	45	45	45	40	38	37	35	40	35	40	46
Diagnostic (Balance)	11	12	11	11								
Diagnostic (Evoked Potentials)	16	18	18	18								
Hearing Aid Fitting	4	5	4	6	6	7	5	3	4	6	7	8
Follow Up	1	1	1	1	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

3. Number of patients

	Total Number on List
Initial Assessment (Direct Referral)	4,529
Diagnostic (Balance)	9
Diagnostic (Evoked Potentials)	5<
Hearing Aid Fitting	486
Follow Up	5<

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the tables above. 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).

4. Longest wait time

Longest Individual wait time	April 2025	March 2025	Feb 2025	Jan 2025	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	Sept 2024	Aug 2025	July 2024	June 2024	May 2024
Initial Assessment (Direct Referral)	45	45	45	45	50	50	52	50	48	44	48	52
Diagnostic (Balance)	11	11	11	11	N.D	N.D	N.D					
Diagnostic (Evoked Potentials)	16	18	18	18								
Hearing Aid Fitting	4	5	4	6	6	7	5	3	4	6	7	8
Follow Up	1	1	1	1	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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