

Date: 25/04/2025
Our Ref: 9766
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GYNAECOLOGY WAITING TIMES

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

Question:

- Please provide the following data on waiting times for gynaecological appointments, for the period between January 1st, 2019 to the current date. Please send me:
- The total number of patients currently on waiting lists for a gynaecology appointment. If available, please provide this broken down by calendar year for the time period referred to above.

Answer:

The table below details the number of people recorded on waiting lists under national reporting for the specialty of gynaecology, who were on the waiting lists at the end of each year.

Number of patients waiting for Gynaecology appointment, NHS Lothian	
Year end	Number of patients
2019	3,924
2020	5,394
2021	7,188
2022	8,169
2023	9,948
2024	11,191
9 March 2025	11,565

Question:

- The average waiting time (in weeks) for a gynaecology appointment. If the information is available, please break this information down by type of referral (routine, urgent, etc.) or the type of appointment (general gynaecology, colposcopy, fertility, endometriosis etc.) – If a full breakdown is not possible please provide any aggregated data you can.

Answer:

2. Average waiting time for a new outpatient appointment seen in the requested years for the national specialty of gynaecology

Year Seen	Priority Group	Number Seen	Mean wait (Days)	Median wait (Days)
2019	Routine	13,070	52.9	49
2019	Urgent	6,736	22.7	21
2020	Routine	9,605	89.3	35
2020	Urgent	6,270	31.8	24
2021	Routine	12,892	85.3	43
2021	Urgent	8,560	32.3	27
2022	Routine	12,562	119.6	47
2022	Urgent	9,400	31.1	20
2023	Routine	12,712	111.7	42
2023	Urgent	9,670	36.9	20
2024	Routine	11,699	129.9	55
2024	Urgent	9,374	45.9	20

Question:

- The average waiting time (in weeks) from referral to confirmed diagnosis. If the information is available please break this information down by condition (e.g. endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, fibroids, other (please specify if available)). If providing waiting times by condition is not possible, please provide an overall average for all gynaecological diagnoses.
- The total number of patients diagnosed with the above conditions in the time period mentioned above. If this is unfeasible, please provide this data for the most recent full year available.
- The average waiting time (in weeks) from diagnosis to treatment, broken down by condition (e.g. endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, fibroids, other (please specify if available)). If providing waiting times by condition is not possible, please provide an overall average for all gynaecological diagnoses.

Answer:

We do not record a diagnosis (as a reportable field), or a date of diagnosis so this is not centrally extractable. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS

Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

6. The number of patients currently awaiting surgery for gynaecological conditions. If available, please provide a breakdown by condition.

Answer

Inpatient/Daycase Ongoing Records	1,588
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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