

Date 31/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10276

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ORTHOGNATHIC WAITING LIST

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the orthognathic waiting list.

Question:

- The orthognathic waiting list in Lothian is closed to new entrants until March 2026. I understand this decision was made by the NHS Lothian Corporate Management team. This is a Freedom of Information request: I want to see a copy of the paper that formed the basis for that decision, and also copies of all supporting documents. For the avoidance of doubt, that includes relevant Corporate Management team minutes, and all other papers, whether electronic or paper, including emails, meeting notes, memoranda and the like.

Answer:

The orthognathic pathway was closed to new referrals in July 2022. This followed discussion and agreement at ELT, and CMT.

There was a paper updated in February 2024 which went to ELT (or CMT?) which agreed to pause until March 2025. This followed a paper to ELT in October 2023, and to CMT in July 2022.

February 2022

Extract from minutes

'There will need to be acknowledgment of pressures in oral medicine and orthognathic (numbers of patients breaching the 12 weeks wait) and an SBAR for each will be developed outlining the proposed plan to manage these pressures.'

April 2022

Extract from minutes

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*

'Orthognathic surgery SBAR was near completion and would be shared by AW once he returns from annual leave.'

July 2022

Extract from the SMT Minutes (attached)

Orthognathic pathway paper discussion (paper attached):

JLo shared that the paper was supported by CMT and Performance Oversight Board although there was discussion regarding pausing new referrals coming into the department. CMT have asked that we have another look at how we are going to manage this LINK from Jenny to be added

JLo reported that the plan to tackle long waits is very ambitus (no people waiting over 2 years for treatment) This all requires more discussion with James Steven and Angus Walls

KI is there a time scale we might be looking at?

December 2022

Extract from the SMT Minutes

'JS Thanked Aman for the huge amount of work regarding orthognathic pathway with the numbers provided by Aman we have developed a document that shares the understanding of the pathway and number of patients involved

See attached Orthognathic Surgery Pathway: The referral pathway has been paused to March 2023 and we are looking to extend this to March 2024 in the first instance, though based on numbers, this is likely to extend beyond this.

AU stated that a lot is dependent on surgical capacity

KI shared she just noticed ref help page seems to have been updated and taken our 'pause' banner off. KI will contact them to get this back on again and provide assurance at next SMT that this has been done.'

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
Enc.