

Date 08/08/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10324

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – UROLOGY APPOINTMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to urology appointment.

Question:

1. What was the average waiting time for urology patients between 2020 and 2025? Please break down by year and by outpatients and inpatients.

Answer:

Table 1 - Mean Waiting Times and Numbers of Patients (Q1 and Q3)

Waiting time standard	Year	Mean completed wait weeks	Patients Seen
General Inpatient	2020	16	2232
General Inpatient	2021	20	2659
General Inpatient	2022	30	2303
General Inpatient	2023	33	2814
General Inpatient	2024	26	3124
General Inpatient	2025	28	1609
General Outpatient	2020	12	8423
General Outpatient	2021	12	8409
General Outpatient	2022	12	5051
General Outpatient	2023	18	6122
General Outpatient	2024	22	3529
General Outpatient	2025	37	1804

Question:

2. How many patients are on the urology waiting list between 2020 and 2025? Please break down by year.

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:

Table 2 - Waiting List Size (Q2)

Waiting time standard	Year	Number on list
General Inpatient	2020	1190
General Inpatient	2021	1852
General Inpatient	2022	2382
General Inpatient	2023	2293
General Inpatient	2024	2366
General Inpatient	2025	1939
General Outpatient	2020	3283
General Outpatient	2021	2389
General Outpatient	2022	1618
General Outpatient	2023	3195
General Outpatient	2024	3144
General Outpatient	2025	4129

Question:

3. How many patients received a urology appointment between 2020 and 2025? Please break down by year.

Answer:

See response to question 1.

Question:

4. How many urology appointments were missed between 2020 and 2025? Please break it down per year.

Answer:

Table 3 - Missed Outpatient Appointments (Q4)

Year	Number
2020	658
2021	796
2022	503
2023	505
2024	255
2025	115

Table 4 - Missed Inpatient Procedures (Q4)

Year	Number
2020	12
2021	15
2022	9
2023	18
2024	20
2025	5<

Question:

5. How many urology appointments were cancelled, or cancelled and rescheduled, between 2020 and 2025? Please break it down per year.

Answer:

Table 5 - Cancelled Outpatient Appointments (Q5)

Year	Number
2020	1076
2021	1109
2022	724
2023	1069
2024	652
2025	270

Table 6 - Cancelled Inpatient Procedures (Q5)

Year	Number
2020	293
2021	315
2022	322
2023	433
2024	384
2025	170

Question:

6. How many referrals for a hospital urology appointment were made between 2020 and 2025? Please break it down per year and indicate where these referrals came from, e.g. GP, specialist clinic, etc.

Answer:

Table 7 - Outpatient Referrals (Q7)

Referral Source	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Accident and Emergency Department	19	9	6	5<	5<	5<
Community Health Service	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	
Consultant from another Hospital outwith this Health Board area	200	159	99	84	92	66
Consultant from another Hospital within Health Board	161	249	518	565	525	440
Consultant within the Trust	3572	3425	1577	1832	1252	635
GP	5365	5073	5270	5054	4134	2146
MDM Referral for Discussion	56	111	30			
Other (includes Armed Forces)	12	12	9	5<	8	6
Other Nurse (Community)	9	5<	5<	5<	6	
Outpatient Department	13	16	5<	8	5<	5<
Prison/Penal Establishments	2	13	8	7	5<	
Ward	12	12		5<	5<	
NA	6					
Self referral		5<				5<
Health Visitor (Community)				5<		

Table 8 - Inpatient Referrals (Q7)

Referral Source	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
NA	3355	3854	2913	3707	3422	1731
NHS 24					5<	

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

Question:

7. How many frontline urology staff does the health board have? Please break it down per year from 2020 to 2025, and break down to doctors/consultants, nurses and physiotherapists, etc.

Answer:

Headcount

Job Family	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Jun-25
Admin	25	24	24	24	23	23
AHP	2	3	2	2	3	3
Healthcare Sciences	3	3	3	3	3	2
Medical						22
Consultant	16	16	16	17	19	18
SAS	3	4	2	3	1	0
Trainee	2	3	3	4	6	4
Medical & Dental Support	0	0	1	1	0	0
Nursing Band 1-4	18	16	26	29	26	26
Nursing Band 5-7	49	50	55	59	53	58
Total	118	119	132	142	134	156

Whole Time Equivalent

Job Family	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Jun-25
Admin	21.12	19.51	20.14	20.24	20.05	19.59
AHP	1.43	2.43	1.23	1.23	2.03	1.90
Healthcare Sciences	2.83	2.83	2.83	2.83	1.83	1.83
Medical						
Consultant	15.20	15.30	15.30	15.40	18.00	16.80
SAS	3.00	3.20	2.00	3.00	1.00	0.00
Trainee	2.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	6.00	3.20
Medical & Dental Support	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00		
Nursing Band 1-4	16.52	14.86	22.24	22.31	20.06	20.07
Nursing Band 5-7	44.32	44.82	48.91	51.39	45.79	52.20
Total	106.41	105.95	116.64	121.40	114.76	115.59

Notes

1. Table 1 shows the mean completed waiting time for Urology procedures/appointments categorised under the General Inpatient and General Outpatient waiting time standards, for each year specified.
2. Table 2 shows the number of ongoing Urology waiting list entries for each waiting time standard on 1st January of each year specified.

3. Tables 3 and 4 show the number of patients who did not arrive for a Urology OP appointment or IP procedure during the period.
4. Tables 5 and 6 show the number of Urology OP appointments and IP procedures that were cancelled or cancelled and rescheduled.
5. Tables 7 and 8 show the number of Urology OP and IP referrals in the period. Note that the referral source is generally not available for inpatient data.
6. Numbers given for 2025 are up to the date of data extraction - with the exception of the waiting list size data, which is given for 1st January.

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