

Date 11/08/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10343

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CANCER DIAGNOSIS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cancer diagnosis.

Question:

1. Cancer Staging at Diagnosis

- The number and percentage of patients diagnosed with cancer at each stage (Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, Stage 4), by cancer type if possible.

Answer:

The most recently available staging data is for the calendar years 2021/2022. This information is broken down by cancer type in the attached spreadsheet.

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:

2. Time from Referral to Diagnosis

- The average and median number of days between urgent GP referral (2-week wait or equivalent) and confirmed cancer diagnosis.

3. Time from Diagnosis to First Treatment

- The average and median number of days between confirmed diagnosis and start of first treatment (e.g. surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy), by cancer type if possible.

4. Delays or Breaches of Waiting Time Targets

- The number of patients whose treatment did not begin within the nationally recommended waiting time targets (e.g. 62 days from urgent referral), broken down by year and cancer type.

Answer:

This information is publicly available on the PHS website:

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

- <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/cancer-waiting-times/cancer-waiting-times-1-january-to-31-march-2025>
- The downloads available under data files show this for the quarter, and there are equivalent reports available for each previous quarter.

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

- Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.

Year of diagnosis	Cancer type	Health Board of residence	Number of tumours						% of tumours				
			I	II	III	IV	Unknown	Total	I	II	III	IV	Unknown
2021	Ampulla of vater	Lothian	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	10	10.0	10.0	20.0	10.0	50.0
2022	Ampulla of vater	Lothian	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	11	18.2	9.1	27.3	27.3	18.2
2021	Bladder	Lothian	20	20	20	19	36	115	17.4	17.4	17.4	16.5	31.3
2022	Bladder	Lothian	22	24	16	16	47	125	17.6	19.2	12.8	12.8	37.6
2021	Bone and connective tissue	Lothian	5<	5<	5<	5<	16	22	4.5	18.2	0.0	4.5	72.7
2022	Bone and connective tissue	Lothian	5<	5<	0	5<	11	18	11.1	11.1	0.0	16.7	61.1
2021	Breast	Lothian	318	310	91	48	46	813	39.1	38.1	11.2	5.9	5.7
2022	Breast	Lothian	343	295	76	40	49	803	42.7	36.7	9.5	5.0	6.1
2021	Cervix uteri	Lothian	28	7	12	5<	5<	55	50.9	12.7	21.8	9.1	5.5
2022	Cervix uteri	Lothian	19	7	10	10	5<	*	38.0	14.0	20.0	20.0	8.0
2021	Colorectal	Lothian	104	154	176	139	115	688	15.1	22.4	25.6	20.2	16.7
2022	Colorectal	Lothian	120	137	131	111	102	601	20.0	22.8	21.8	18.5	17.0
2021	Corpus uteri	Lothian	97	14	16	12	13	152	63.8	9.2	10.5	7.9	8.6
2022	Corpus uteri	Lothian	80	12	11	20	8	131	61.1	9.2	8.4	15.3	6.1
2021	Extrahepatic bile ducts	Lothian	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	14	7.1	7.1	7.1	35.7	42.9
2022	Extrahepatic bile ducts	Lothian	0	5<	5<	5<	10	17	0.0	11.8	11.8	17.6	58.8
2021	Fallopian tube	Lothian	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	Fallopian tube	Lothian	5<	0	5<	0	0	5<	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
2021	Gallbladder	Lothian	0	5<	5<	11	6	20	0.0	10.0	5.0	55.0	30.0
2022	Gallbladder	Lothian	0	0	5<	11	5<	17	0.0	0.0	17.6	64.7	17.6
2021	Head and neck	Lothian	53	27	19	71	16	186	28.5	14.5	10.2	38.2	8.6
2022	Head and neck	Lothian	53	29	25	62	19	188	28.2	15.4	13.3	33.0	10.1
2021	Kidney	Lothian	70	6	33	36	10	155	45.2	3.9	21.3	23.2	6.5
2022	Kidney	Lothian	89	5<	35	33	22	*	48.9	1.6	19.2	18.1	12.1
2021	Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	Lothian	19	13	8	28	45	113	16.8	11.5	7.1	24.8	39.8
2022	Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	Lothian	17	8	11	21	39	96	17.7	8.3	11.5	21.9	40.6
2021	Lung	Lothian	210	66	157	324	54	811	25.9	8.1	19.4	40.0	6.7
2022	Lung	Lothian	228	59	180	315	54	836	27.3	7.1	21.5	37.7	6.5
2021	Malignant melanoma of skin	Lothian	104	45	17	5<	65	*	44.1	19.1	7.2	2.1	27.5
2022	Malignant melanoma of skin	Lothian	98	38	22	5<	86	*	39.4	15.3	8.8	2.0	34.5
2021	Oesophagus	Lothian	5<	18	60	42	23	148	3.4	12.2	40.5	28.4	15.5
2022	Oesophagus	Lothian	8	14	55	41	25	143	5.6	9.8	38.5	28.7	17.5
2021	Ovary	Lothian	26	7	19	18	8	78	33.3	9.0	24.4	23.1	10.3
2022	Ovary	Lothian	41	6	15	17	9	88	46.6	6.8	17.0	19.3	10.2
2021	Pancreas	Lothian	11	7	20	68	36	142	7.7	4.9	14.1	47.9	25.4
2022	Pancreas	Lothian	15	5<	13	67	36	*	11.2	2.2	9.7	50.0	26.9
2021	Peritoneum	Lothian	5<	0	5<	5<	5<	12	8.3	0.0	33.3	41.7	16.7
2022	Peritoneum	Lothian	0	0	5<	5<	5<	9	0.0	0.0	44.4	33.3	22.2
2021	Pleural mesothelioma	Lothian	0	0	5<	5<	23	30	0.0	0.0	16.7	6.7	76.7
2022	Pleural mesothelioma	Lothian	0	0	0	5<	17	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	89.5
2021	Prostate	Lothian	77	131	101	155	114	578	13.3	22.7	17.5	26.8	19.7
2022	Prostate	Lothian	125	141	142	168	163	739	16.9	19.1	19.2	22.7	22.1
2021	Sarcoma of orbit	Lothian	0	0	0	0	5<	5<	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
2021	Small intestine	Lothian	5<	5<	5<	5<	21	25	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	84.0
2022	Small intestine	Lothian	5<	5<	5<	5<	14	25	4.0	16.0	8.0	16.0	56.0
2021	Stomach	Lothian	6	19	5<	33	34	*	6.2	19.6	5.2	34.0	35.1
2022	Stomach	Lothian	9	11	10	25	36	91	9.9	12.1	11.0	27.5	39.6
2021	Testis	Lothian	21	8	0	NA	5<	30	70.0	26.7	0.0	NA	3.3
2022	Testis	Lothian	23	6	5<	NA	5<	32	71.9	18.8	6.3	NA	3.1
2021	Thyroid gland	Lothian	36	5<	0	5<	11	56	64.3	7.1	0.0	8.9	19.6
2022	Thyroid gland	Lothian	32	5<	5<	5<	8	48	66.7	10.4	2.1	4.2	16.7