

Date 11/08/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10357

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAIT LIST REMOVAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cancer patients removed from waiting lists.

Question:

- The total number of patients who have been removed from cancer treatment waiting lists by your health board in the 2024 calendar year and the first 6 months of 2025 (January to present date of 16 July 2025).

Answer:

There have been 116 patients tracked by Cancer Wait Times who have been removed from the 31 day tracked pathway (decision to treat to first treatment) without receiving cancer treatment at NHS Lothian between 01/01/2024 and 16/07/2025.

These patients can be removed for the following reasons

- They ask to be removed
- It is no longer clinically needed
- They are unavailable for an extended period of time
- They have been treated elsewhere already (i.e privately, other health board)

Note: Cancer Wait Times doesn't track all cancers, cancers not tracked include the following cancer types:

- Sarcomas
- Mesothelioma
- Carcinoma in situ tumours (with the exception that patients diagnosed with breast cancer will be included)
- Carcinoid tumours also known as (neuro-) endocrine tumours
- Patients where the origin of the primary tumour cannot be determined
- Recurrent cancer (when a patient has been diagnosed and treated for primary cancer and is then informed they are cancer free but the cancer then reoccurs in the same site)
- Paediatric patients

Headquarters
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

- Metastatic cancers where the cancer is of unknown primary (except melanoma where the origin of the primary lesion has never been identified) (almost always classed as subsequent treatment)

The cancers listed below are tracked, provided they do not meet any of the exclusion criteria

- Breast
- Colorectal
- Gynaecological - Cervical
- Gynaecological - Endometrial
- Gynaecological - Ovarian
- Gynaecological - Vaginal
- Gynaecological - Vulval
- Head and Neck
- Lung
- Lymphoma
- Melanoma
- Upper GI - Hepatopancreatobilliary
- Upper GI - Oesophagogastric
- Urology - Bladder
- Urology - Other
- Urology - Prostate

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