

Date 05/12/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10824

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BLADDER OUTLET SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to bladder outlet surgery.

Question:

1. What proportion of men waiting for bladder outlet surgery were catheterised prior to surgery, in the quarter ending 30th June 2025?
2. What proportion of men undergoing bladder outlet surgery had a urinary catheter when they were admitted for surgery, in the quarter ending June 2025?
3. If a man presents with urinary retention and is catheterised or taught to self-catheterise what is the average time to surgery for these men?
4. What was the average waiting time for men with lower urinary tract symptoms from referral to specialist Urology services to treatment decision, in the quarter ending 30th June 2025?
5. What was the average waiting time for men with lower urinary tract symptoms from treatment decision to surgery, in the quarter ending June 2025?

Answer:

I am advised that we cannot answer questions 1 to 3 as they are very specific and the only way to potentially identify the groups of men mentioned would be for a suitably qualified clinician to study clinical notes.

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.

The term “lower urinary tract symptoms” in questions 4 and 5 is too vague to fall under any specific service that we could search for. Again we would need to look through individual patients records.

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*

I am sorry I cannot help further 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