

Date 09/01/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10928

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAIT TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to waiting times for scans.

Question:

- Patient Waiting Times (As of December 2025)** What are the total number of patients currently waiting for a routine or urgent-suspected-cancer MRI scan, broken down by the following waiting time periods from referral date to scan date: a) Under 6 weeks b) 6 to under 8 weeks c) Over 8 weeks?
- Urgent Referral Waiting Times (Last Quarter)** What was the average and maximum waiting time (in days) for an urgent referral for an MRI scan for the last full quarter (i.e. July 2025 – September 2025)?

Answer:

See enclosed 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:

- Scanner Operation and Downtime (Last 12 Months)** For the last 12 months (e.g. December 2024 – November 2025): a) What was the average daily operational rate (in hours) for each fixed NHS MRI scanner managed by the Health Board? b) What was the total unplanned downtime (in days) for each fixed NHS MRI scanner due to maintenance, repair, or breakdown?

Answer:

Western General Hospital - WGH

7-day average is 8hrs/day. Approx total unplanned downtime for the last year is 9.5 days

Royal infirmary of Edinburgh - RIE

MRI1 - Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri 9am - 5pm  
MRI 1 - Thurs 8.30am-5pm  
MRI2 - Mon - Wed 8.30am - 8.15pm  
MRI2 - Thurs 8.30am - 7.45pm  
MRI2 - Fri 8.30am - 5pm

All planned engineer visits and no unplanned downtime in the past year.

Royal Hospital for Children and Young People/Department of Clinical Neurosciences - RHCYP/DCN

RHCYP MRI - Mon-Fri 9hr days, no unplanned downtime  
DCN 1.5T Mon-Fri 9 hr days with some ad hoc additional weekend and evening sessions, no unplanned downtime  
DCN 3T Mon-Thu 12hr days, Fri 9 hrs day, Sat and Sun 8 hr days - approx 2 days unplanned downtime  
lop MRI Mon-Fri 9hr days, no unplanned downtime

St Johns Hospital - SJH

Monday 9am - 830pm  
Tuesday 9am - 9pm  
Wednesday 9am - 730pm  
Thursday 9am - 8pm  
Friday 9am - 5pm

There is no provision for routine scanning on a Saturday and Sunday although on average there have been 2 Sundays per month extra lists 9am - 4pm.

There was no unplanned downtime, only planned services.

Question:

4. **MRI Scanner Asset List (Current)** Please provide a list of all operational MRI scanners currently managed by the Health Board, including a) The model name/number b) The year of purchase (or commissioning date) c) The date of installation.

Answer:

Model	Manufacturer	Purchase year	Installation date
Magnetom Aera 1.5T	Siemens	2014	01/04/2014
MAGNETON AERA 1.5T	Siemens	2013	25/03/2013
Magnetom Aera 1.5T	Siemens	2014	18/09/2014
Ingenia 1.5T	Phillips	2019	28/05/2019
Ingenia 3T	Phillips	2019	28/05/2019

Ingenia 3T	Phillips	2019	28/05/2019
Ingenia 3T Intraoperative	Phillips	2019	28/05/2019
Ingenia Ambition 1.5T	Philips	2019	18/09/2019

Question:

5. **Average Cost of Scan (Last Financial Year)** What was the average Health Board cost for performing a single MRI scan for the last complete financial year (2024/25)? Please specify the key cost components included in this figure (e.g., staff, maintenance, consumables, depreciation).

Answer:

Costs for 2024/25 will not be published until February 2026.

The information you have request is currently exempt under Section 27 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information intended for future publication

(1) Information is exempt information if-

- (a)it is held with a view to its being published by-
- (i) a Scottish public authority; or
- (ii) any other person at a date not later than twelve weeks after that on which the request for the information is made;
- (b) when that request is made the information is already being held with that view; and
- (c)it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information be withheld from disclosure until such date as is mentioned in paragraph (a).

However, 2023/24 costs can be found within R120X and SFR 5.11 which can be accessed via [Files listing for 2023 to 2024 - Scottish health service costs - summary for financial year 2023 to 2024 - Scottish health service costs - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

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.

Question:

6. **Outsourcing Costs (Last Financial Year)** What was the total annual cost for the Health Board on outsourcing MRI scans to private providers in the last complete financial year (2024/25)?

Answer:

Nil - no outsourcing costs for 2024/25 financial year

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](http://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.

**QUESTION 1 - PARAMETERS & SUMMARY**

Type of Data	WL. Patients
Period of Time	Snapshot 04.12.25
Modality	MRI
WL Type	TRUE
Consultant Priority	USOC, Urgent and Routine

**NHS LOTHIAN. MRI WAITING LIST**
**04/12/2025**

<b>USOC (Urgent Suspected Cancer)</b>	<b>205</b>
>26 weeks	0
12-26 weeks	0
10-12 weeks	0
8-10 weeks	0
6-8 weeks	0
6 weeks or <	205
<b>Urgent</b>	<b>374</b>
>26 weeks	10
12-26 weeks	22
10-12 weeks	5<
8-10 weeks	5<
6-8 weeks	7
6 weeks or <	328
<b>Routine</b>	<b>5765</b>
>26 weeks	815
12-26 weeks	1674
10-12 weeks	332
8-10 weeks	449
6-8 weeks	502
6 weeks or <	1993
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6344</b>

**QUESTION 2 -PARAMETERS & SUMMARY**

Type of Data	WL Patients. New Referral Date
Period of Time	01/07/25-30/09/25
Modality	MRI
WL Type	TRUE
Consultant Priority	USOC and Urgent

**NHS LOTHIAN. MRI WAITING LIST**
**Average of Days from New Ref Date to Removed from List**

USOC	15
Urgent	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Max of Days from New Ref Date to Removed from List</b>	
USOC	52
Urgent	119
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>119</b>