

Date 09/01/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 10928

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

1. **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?
2. **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:

3. **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

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

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

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
Grand Total		19
Max of Days from New Ref Date to Removed from List		
USOC		52
Urgent		119
Grand Total		119