

Date 13/01/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10937

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
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[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DEMAND

I write in response to your request for information in relation to service demand.

### Question:

1. A list of clinical service areas that have seen the greatest increase in demand, based on:
  - referrals,
  - waiting lists, or
  - activity levels.
2. For each of these top 10 areas, please provide:
  - service name (e.g., mental health, obesity/weight management, sexual health, Vitamin drips and anything else)
  - percentage increase year-on-year
  - total number of referrals or attendances (if available)

### Answer:

This information can be found via the following publicly available source:  
<https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/stage-of-treatment-waiting-times>

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:

3. If available, please also provide any internal reports, dashboards or summaries used for monitoring rising demand or service pressures.

### Answer:

Please see main waiting list dashboard enclosed.

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*

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).

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

Yours sincerely

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

WAITING TIMES WEEKLY QUICKVIEW

SOURCE: TRAK, UPDATED: Every Monday  
CONTACT: analysts.scheduledcare@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Type  
○ IP  
● OP

WT Target  
12 Weeks

Waiting Time Standard  
All

Priority Group  
All

National Specialty  
All

Dashboard Specialty  
All

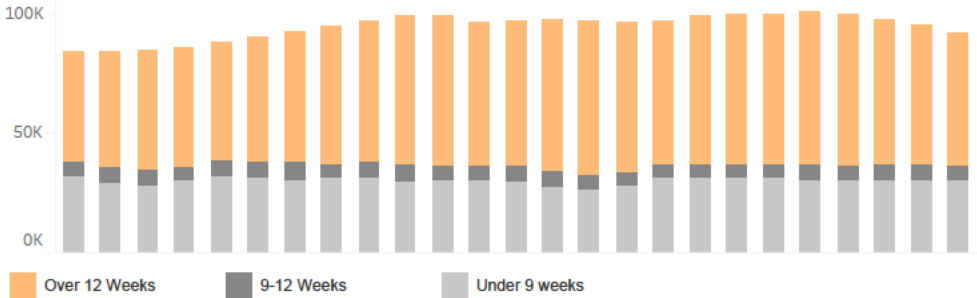
Specialty  
All

Service/Local Procedure  
All

Care Provider  
All

Hospital  
All

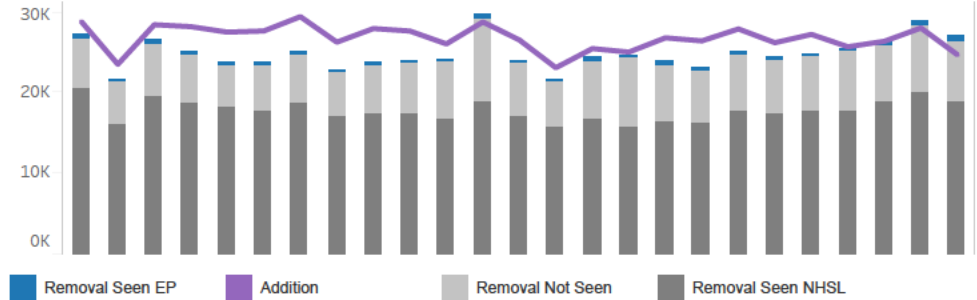
WAITING LIST SIZE



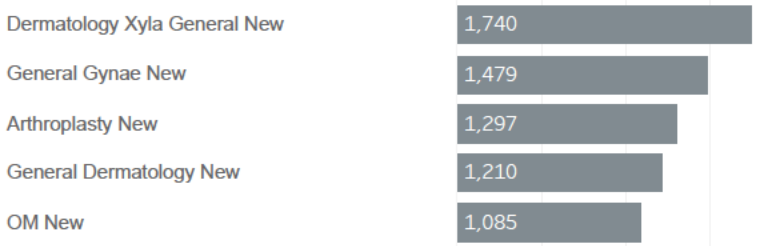
THE FIVE QUEUES WITH THE LARGEST 12 WEEK BREACHES



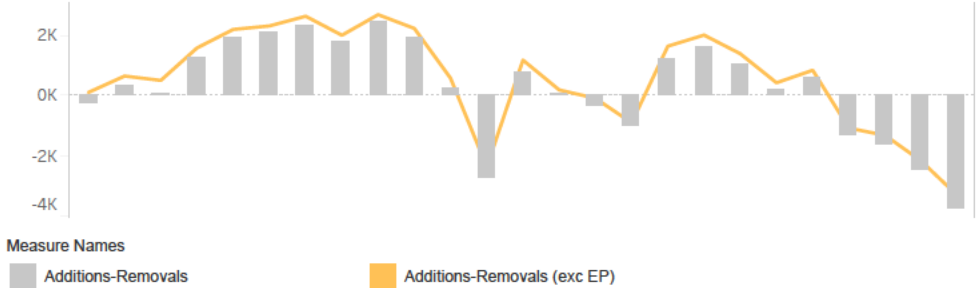
MONTHLY ADDITIONS AND REMOVALS



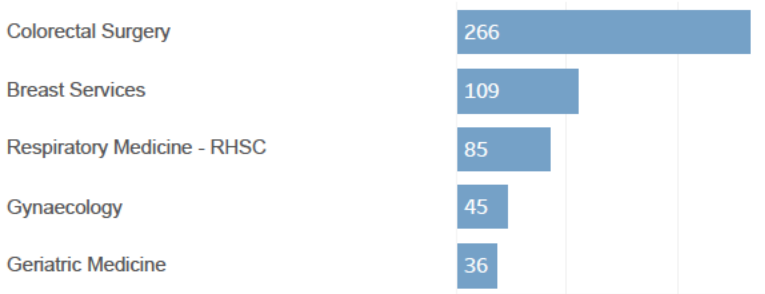
THE FIVE QUEUES WITH THE LARGEST 52 WEEK BREACHES



MONTHLY ADDITIONS MINUS REMOVALS



THE FIVE SPECIALTIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASE IN SIZE (PAST MONTH)



WAITING TIMES WEEKLY PIVOT TABLE/CHART

SOURCE: TRAK, UPDATED: Every Monday  
CONTACT: analysts.scheduledcare@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Select Breakdown  
Dashboard Specialty

Select Metric  
List Size

Type

- ☐ IP
- ☒ OP

WT Target  
12 Weeks

Waiting Time Standard  
All

Priority Group  
All

National Specialty  
All

Dashboard Specialty  
All

Specialty  
All

Service/Local Procedure  
All

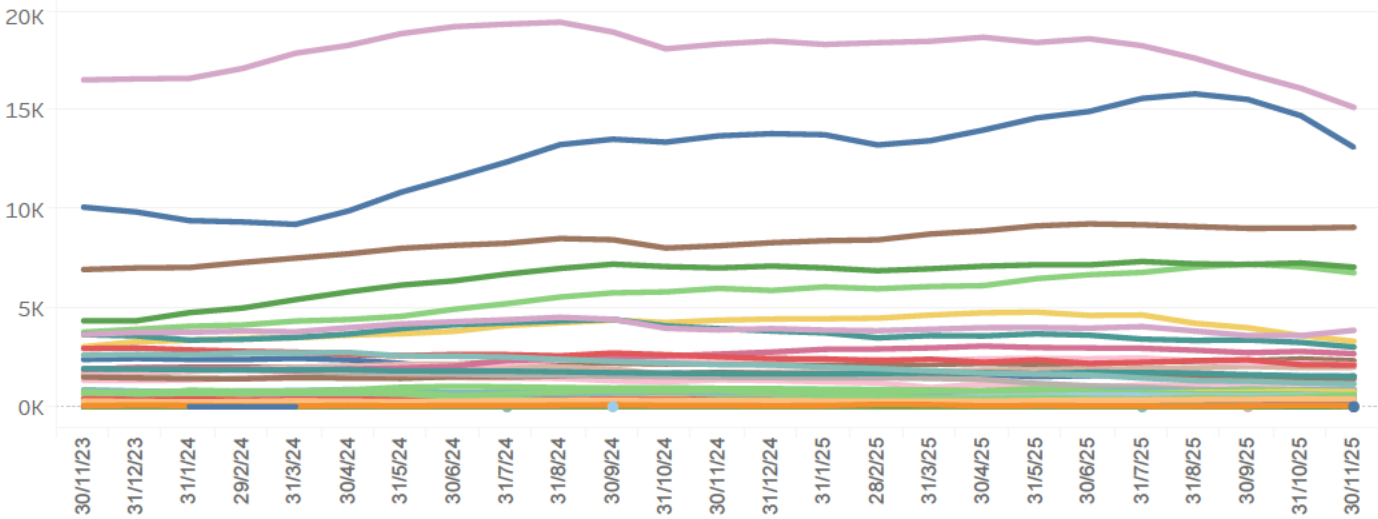
Care Provider  
All

Hospital  
All

TABLE: List Size by month

	30/11/23	31/12/23	31/01/24	29/02/24	31/03/24	30/04/24	31/05/24	30/06/24	31/07/24
Grand Total	83,980	84,333	84,433	85,743	87,744	89,923	92,390	94,289	96,840
Null					0				
- RHSC									
Ambulatory Care	53	82	68	36	33	71	42	67	6
Anaesthetics	290	261	248	261	299	278	261	279	300
Anaesthetics - RHSC	7	11	11	8	14	10	15	14	
Breast Services	765	642	676	684	696	694	637	491	400
Cardiac Rehabilitation	40	28	35	39	33	36	21	27	
Cardiac Surgery	57	56	62	62	74	75	68	80	90
Cardiology	2,617	2,657	2,639	2,725	2,725	2,752	2,579	2,561	2,510
Cardiology - RHSC	397	418	398	352	384	388	390	394	380
Clinical Oncology	222	233	197	225	214	234	253	236	190
Clinical psychology		0		12	25	61	81	81	80

CHART: List Size by month



WAITING TIMES WEEKLY SUMMARY TABLE

SOURCE: TRAK, UPDATED: Every Monday  
CONTACT: analysts.scheduledcare@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Type

☐ IP

☒ OP

WT Target

12 Weeks

WT Standard

All

National Specialty

All

Dashboard Specialty

All

Specialty

All

Service/Local Procedure All	Care Provider All						Hospital All						Priority Group All					
	List Size	Addition	Removal	Removal Seen NHSL	Removal Seen EP	Removal Not Seen	Additions -Removals	Additions -Removals (exc E..	Over 4 Weeks	Over 6 Weeks	Over 12 Weeks	Over 26 Weeks	Over 52 Weeks	Over 78 Weeks	Over 104 Weeks	Over 156 Weeks		
30/11/25	91,353	23,134	27,015	18,889	568	7,558	-3,881	-3,313	74,007	68,170	54,582	33,898	16,894	7,374	2,860	323		
31/10/25	95,234	26,241	28,769	20,000	373	8,396	-2,528	-2,155	77,421	71,408	58,057	36,734	18,586	7,996	3,267	479		
30/09/25	97,762	24,696	26,373	18,925	381	7,067	-1,677	-1,296	80,059	74,019	60,537	38,671	19,681	8,206	3,310	400		
31/08/25	99,439	24,057	25,391	17,926	279	7,186	-1,334	-1,055	82,310	76,193	62,452	40,176	20,768	8,413	3,123	266		
31/07/25	100,773	25,493	24,822	17,793	204	6,825	671	875	83,176	77,198	63,183	41,032	21,666	8,723	3,097	155		
30/06/25	100,102	24,533	24,303	17,500	228	6,575	230	458	82,131	76,060	62,904	41,485	21,200	8,656	2,939	19		
31/05/25	99,872	26,126	25,057	17,807	358	6,892	1,069	1,427	81,856	76,020	62,127	41,964	20,427	8,512	2,650	9		
30/04/25	98,803	24,740	23,014	16,217	323	6,474	1,726	2,049	81,091	75,108	60,961	41,076	18,928	7,606	2,182	10		
31/03/25	97,077	25,095	23,828	16,574	411	6,843	1,267	1,678	78,696	72,705	59,727	39,627	17,825	6,949	1,888	8		
28/02/25	95,810	23,441	24,464	15,747	145	8,572	-1,023	-878	77,834	72,117	62,121	39,309	16,460	6,204	1,660	9		
31/01/25	96,833	23,847	24,228	16,823	321	7,084	-381	-60	79,931	77,305	63,696	40,997	15,488	5,655	1,384	8		
31/12/24	97,214	21,627	21,570	15,799	162	5,609	57	219	82,480	76,718	62,891	40,471	14,396	5,043	1,210	9		
30/11/24	97,157	24,848	23,990	17,256	356	6,378	858	1,214	80,101	74,342	60,662	38,305	13,851	4,390	995	10		
31/10/24	96,299	26,933	29,761	18,925	479	10,357	-2,828	-2,349	78,693	72,544	59,369	37,034	12,688	3,787	744	10		
30/09/24	99,127	24,389	24,133	16,750	354	7,029	256	610	81,311	75,383	62,079	39,479	14,412	3,388	532	11		
31/08/24	98,871	25,885	23,860	17,440	246	6,174	2,025	2,271	81,697	75,767	61,698	38,849	14,162	3,297	369	10		
31/07/24	96,846	26,169	23,612	17,519	173	5,920	2,557	2,730	79,440	73,361	58,923	36,037	12,861	2,734	264	11		
30/06/24	94,289	24,595	22,696	17,172	144	5,380	1,899	2,043	76,360	70,381	56,662	34,591	11,589	2,608	148	12		
31/05/24	92,390	27,550	25,083	18,839	210	6,034	2,467	2,677	74,168	67,936	54,372	33,157	10,098	2,211	97	12		
30/04/24	89,923	25,891	23,712	17,955	175	5,582	2,179	2,354	71,485	65,995	51,458	30,633	8,876	1,686	69	11		
31/03/24	87,744	25,755	23,754	18,192	236	5,326	2,001	2,237	69,775	63,353	49,081	28,654	8,223	1,409	49	13		
29/02/24	85,743	26,391	25,081	18,786	310	5,985	1,310	1,620	66,938	60,666	49,678	26,833	7,457	1,301	38	13		
31/01/24	84,433	26,618	26,518	19,551	437	6,530	100	537	66,050	63,049	48,890	26,343	6,865	1,432	30	14		
31/12/23	84,333	22,025	21,672	16,132	329	5,211	353	682	69,373	63,092	48,409	25,890	6,866	1,506	27	15		
30/11/23	83,980	26,979	27,207	20,553	364	6,290	-228	136	65,638	59,893	45,689	23,712	6,558	1,266	38	18		

## DEFINITIONS

Source: TRAK NHS Lothian

Waits for Covid testing are excluded from this dashboard and would normally be counted under the infectious disease specialty.

Where waiting times standard is blank in TRAK, it has been derived for this dashboard.

## ADDITIONS - REMOVALS

Positive numbers mean that there were more additions to the waiting list than removals. All removals are included in this analysis, i.e. removals seen and removals not seen.

## REMOVALS SEEN BY EP

External Provider Removals only include those patients who were removed from the waiting list when they were seen. Removals not seen are excluded.

Removals from the waiting list are flagged as external provider if;

At the end of their wait If the patient attends an appointment in a specialty that has 'EWSG' or 'Medinet' in the name.

The patient is on the waiting list for;

- a clinic that contains the text 'edinet' in its name.
- a specialty that contains the word 'Medinet' in its name.
- an appointment at one of the following locations;
  - Golden Jubilee National Hospital,
  - Glasgow Nuffield Hospital,
  - Murrayfield Hospital,
  - Ross Hall Hospital,
  - Shawfair Park Hospital,
  - The Edinburgh Clinic.

## PRIORITY GROUP

Priority Group contains the following mapping to what come out of TRAK.

### Routine

- IP/DC - Routine (>12 wks)
- Routine

### Soon

- IP/DC - Soon (4-12 wks)

### Urgent

- IP/DC - Urgent (<4 wks)
- Urgent

### USOC

- 31 days treatment
- 62 days wait Non Triaged
- 62 days wait Triaged
- Bowel screening
- IP/DC - Suspected/Confirmed Cancer

### Other

- Not Triaged
- Referral to be cancelled ..