

Date 09/02/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11028

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Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – REMOVAL**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to removal from wait lists.

Question:

1. How many people were removed from an outpatient/inpatient waiting list in the calendar year 2025 for a reason other than having had the appointment, or death. Please provide the reasons for this removal in each case. For example, X were removed due to leaving the area.

Answer:

REASON FOR REMOVAL	Removals	Patients
Additional referral received	17,754	16,549
Anaemic	5<	5<
Could not attend	5<	5<
Declined Reasonable Offer Package	672	666
Declined Reasonable Offer Package at External Provider	14	14
Did Not Respond - Central Digital WL Review/Validation	12,734	12,406
Did Not Respond - PFB	31,406	29,036
Did Not Respond - Service WL Review/Validation	2,620	2,595
Did Not Respond/Not Contactable	5<	5<
Did Not Respond/Not Contactable by External Provider	4,782	4,672
Did not attend	7	7
Inappropriate Referral at Triage	24,005	21,644
Incomplete Referral Patient Questionnaire	1,458	1,410
Medical Unavailability > 24 weeks	70	70
Passed to Community Trak or service within Lothian but not on Trak	5,642	5,417

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

Patient Advised Unavailability > 24 weeks	293	290
Patient Initiated Follow Up	63	62
Patient could not attend (Multiple Appointments)	1,067	1,041
Patient did not attend	30,513	26,282
Referred for Treatment	5<	5<
Removal after Clinical Review	6,533	6,311
Seen as an Emergency	745	731
Shared Care Allocated	16,181	13,556
Theatre - Not Known (add comment)	5<	5<
Trak Process to re-PFB	3,461	3,263
Transferred to GJNH - Ophthalmology	3,335	3,303
Transferred to GJNH - Other specialties	1,695	1,680
Transferred to National Treatment Centre	638	624
Transferred to another NHS provider (Treat or See and Treat)	1,852	1,816
Treatment Not Currently Required	37,272	35,002
Unfit for Treatments	925	890
W/L Admin Error (Trak comment Required)	37,562	33,403
blank	85	84

*Includes all inpatient and outpatient waits removed from the list between 1st Jan 2025 and 31st Dec 2025*

*Includes all types of wait, not just those that are subject to the 12 week waiting time standard.*

*Includes waits for various radiology scans performed as outpatients (MRI, CT, Ultrasound, Fluoroscopy, Mammography etc).*

*Return outpatient waits are excluded.*

*A patient can be removed from 2 or more lists within the time period and so the number of patients as well as removals has been provided.*

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:

2. Whether it is the case that people are removed from waiting lists if they do not confirm their intention to remain on it within 21 days in response to a letter sent to them checking this. If this is the case, how many were removed for this reason in 2025?

Answer:

*See above. Where reason of removals is either of the following reasons;*

- Did Not Respond - Service WL Review/Validation as well*
- Did Not respond - Central Digital WL Review/ Validation*

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