

Date 13/02/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11056

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING LISTS

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

Question:

1. For the year 2025, pls outline how many patients who were on waiting lists, had their 'clocks' reset. pls provide answers for the years, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 as well.
2. Out of the total, pls specify the reasons for the clocks being reset ie how many were Did Not Attend and how many were Could Not Attend. pls provide answers for the years, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 as well.

Answer:

I am advised that this level of detail is not held in a centrally extractable format and would require complex analysis. 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.

Question:

3. Pls also outline how many patients were removed from a waiting list altogether and what the clinical reason was for their removal. pls provide answers for the years, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 as well.

Answer:

I am advised that information to answer this is published nationally:

<https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/stage-of-treatment-waiting-times/resource/10dd6ca4-1868-464c-8d20-7f9261070484>



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.

I am sorry I cannot help 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