

Date 24/02/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11063

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – IUD/COIL FITTING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to IUD/coil fitting.

Question:

1. The average and median waiting time for IUD/coil fitting appointments over the last 12 months.

Answer:

Most of our routine IUD appointments are available to self-book online with new appointments released on a weekly basis, as such there is no waiting time data available to share. There is also the option for patients to attend a weekly drop-in clinic for a same-day procedure. The remaining small number of patients referred by their GP for a routine IUD appointment are currently seen within 4 weeks of referral.

Question:

2. Whether waiting times differ depending on the stated reason for fitting (e.g. contraception vs non-contraceptive medical use).

Answer:

The options noted above are the same regardless of the reason for IUD fitting. However some patients require to be seen in complex IUD clinic for review by a specialist and/or use of ultrasound, for example where a more complex insertion or removal procedure is expected. These are referral-only clinics with a current waiting time of 8 weeks.

Question:

3. Whether patients seeking IUDs/coils for non-contraceptive purposes are routinely referred elsewhere (e.g. GP or gynaecology services), and if so, to which services.

Answer:

No.

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*

Question:

4. Any prioritisation criteria used when allocating IUD/coil fitting appointments.

Answer:

Rapid access pathways for IUD insertion exist for some patients, for example post-abortion or postpartum, in line with national service standards for sexual health.

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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive