

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEUROLOGY**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to neurology in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How long is your current neurology waiting list?

Answer:

The table below details the number of completed waits in 2025 for both inpatient and outpatient neurology, with average waiting times.

Neurology waiting times, 2025, NHS Lothian		
Waiting list	Number of completed waits	Average waiting time (days)
Inpatient	41	45.2
Outpatient	7,170	63.1

Question:

2. How many women are on the neurology waiting list? Please provide a breakdown of inpatient and outpatients.
3. How many men are on the neurology waiting list? Please provide a breakdown of inpatient and outpatients.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This shows a breakdown of patients currently on the waiting list. I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Neurology current waiting list, NHS Lothian		
Waiting list	Female	Male
Inpatient	≤5	≤5
Outpatient	531	376



Questions:

- 4. How many female patients were diagnosed with a neurology condition in 2025?
- 5. How many male patients were diagnosed with a neurology condition in 2025?

Answer:

This information is not held centrally. The diagnosis associated with an inpatient admission is recorded on discharge from hospital, but it is not recorded when the diagnosis was first made. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Questions:

- 6. Data on the number of complaints NHS Scotland has received in the last 3 years for late diagnosis (of any condition).
- 7. Data on the number of complaints NHS Scotland has received in the last 3 years, specifically for late diagnosis of neurological conditions.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

<b>Complaints regarding late diagnosis, NHS Lothian</b>	
<b>Complaint</b>	<b>Number of complaints</b>
Delayed diagnosis - all conditions	215
Delayed diagnosis - neurology	8

Question:

- 8. Data on the number of complaints NHS Scotland has received from women in the last 3 years for late diagnosis (of any condition).
- 9. Data on the number of complaints NHS Scotland has received in the last 3 years, specifically for late diagnosis of neurological conditions by women.

Answer:

This information is not held centrally. Complaints are not recorded according to the gender of the patient affected. Information may be held in individual complaint records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each complaint record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12

of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive