

Date 03/03/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11127

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Direct Line 0131 465 5687
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DERMATOLOGY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dermatology.

Question:

Please provide the following information for your Trust/Board, covering the last five financial years where available (2019/20 - 2024/25).

1. Dermatology Waiting Times and Access Indicators

For each financial year listed above, please provide:

a.) Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) elective waiting-time indicators for dermatology services, if held:

- Median RTT waiting time (in weeks)
- Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end)
- Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end)

b.) Outpatient dermatology access, if held:

- Median waiting time for a first outpatient dermatology appointment (in weeks)
- Total number of patients on the dermatology outpatient waiting list at year-end

Where possible, please indicate whether data are available broken down by:

- New vs follow-up appointments
- Sub-specialties within dermatology (e.g. inflammatory skin disease, skin cancer, paediatric dermatology), if routinely recorded

Answer:

I am advised that that we cannot answer (1a.) because RTT is not relevant in Scotland and we cant provide combined OP and IP waits as we do nothave the ability to easily link these waits together for a single patient.

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

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

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.

In relation to (1b.) I am advised that PHS published table at the link below provide completed waiting times for New outpatient appointments by Specialty and NHS Board. It also provides info on ongoing waits for each quarter end (including Dec 2025).

All this information is just for New outpatient appointments. We would not normally provide waiting time information on return appointments as patients do not tend to be waiting for a return appointment they are asked to come back within a set time frame (1 month, 3 months, 6 months etc) and kept on the return list during that time.

https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/37156/newop_feb26.xlsx

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.

2. Access to Dermatology Care and Capacity (If Held)

For each year listed above, please provide:

- a. The total number of consultant dermatologists employed by the Trust/Board (headcount or FTE, whichever is standard)
- b. Whether the Trust/Board commissions or provides specialist dermatology services beyond general dermatology (e.g. severe eczema, psoriasis, acne, or contact dermatitis clinics)

WTE consultant dermatologists in work in post at April:

Year	Whole Time Equivalent
2019	14.44 WTE
2020	13.78 WTE
2021	13.15 WTE
2022	15.00 WTE
2023	13.23 WTE
2024	13.58 WTE
2025	14.15 WTE

Treatment subspeciality and services provided by NHSL dermatology

- General dermatology
- Psoriasis
- Eczema
- Allergy including contact dermatitis

- Hair and Nail
- Tumour
- Cutaneous lymphoma
- Phototherapy
- Paediatric
- Psychodermatology
- Biopsy
- Mohs micrographic surgery

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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive