

Date 02/04/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11216

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DELAYED DISCHARGE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to delayed discharge.

### Question:

1. Of those patients who experienced delayed discharge and were discharged in (i) 2022/23, and (ii) 2023/24, how many were delayed due to health and social care reasons for (a) 1-3 months, (b) 3-6 months (c) 6-9 months, (d) 9-12 months, (e) 12-18 months, (f) 18-24 months, and (g) over 24 months.
2. What was the longest any patient discharged in (i) 2022/23, and (ii) 2023/24 was delayed due to a delayed discharge based on health and social care reasons? What proportion of this delay was attributed to each of (a) assessment, (b) funding, (c) place availability, (d) care arrangements and (e) transport?
3. Of those patients currently experiencing delayed discharge due to health and social care reasons, how many have been delayed for (a) 1-3 months, (b) 3-6 months (c) 6-9 months, (d) 9-12 months, (e) 12-18 months, (f) 18-24 months, and (g) over 24 months.
4. What is the longest any patient currently experiencing delayed discharge due to health and social care reasons has been delayed. What proportion of this delay is attributable to each of (a) assessment, (b) funding, (c) place availability, (d) care arrangements and (e) transport?

### Answer:

I am advised that this information is already available via a previous response.

<https://org.nhsllothian.scot/foi/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2024/11/9281.pdf>

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 hope the publicly available information helps with your request.

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*



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

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive