

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING TIMES**

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

Question:

1. The current median and mean waiting time for:
  - o (a) routine haematology outpatient referrals
  - o (b) urgent haematology outpatient referrals

Answer:

PRIORITY	WAITS	MEDIAN WAIT (DAYS)	MEAN WAIT (DAYS)
Routine	1469	31	34.1
Urgent	322	12	14.4
62 days wait Triaged	121	11	10.6
Not Triaged	5<	13	12.3

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

2. The number of patients currently waiting for a first outpatient haematology appointment, broken down by waiting time bands (e.g. 0–12 weeks, 12–26 weeks, 26–52 weeks, 52+ weeks).

Answer:

WEEKS WAITING_GROUP	Patients
0 to 12 weeks	162
12 to 26 weeks	0
26 to 52 weeks	0
over 52 weeks	0

Question:

3. The longest waiting time recorded for a first haematology outpatient appointment in the most recent available month.

Answer:

This information is considered exemption under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – personal information. The information is highly identifiable as relates to individual patients.

Question:

4. The NHS Lothian target waiting time for haematology outpatient appointments (routine and urgent).

Answer:

Waiting time standard is 12 weeks.

**Notes:**

- 1. Includes all new new outpatients under a Haematology service and had a completed wait between '01, Apr, 2025' and '18, Mar, 2026' split by priority.*
- 2. Includes all new outpatients under a Haematology service currently waiting split by weeks waiting group. Current waits are those still waiting on the list at the time of extraction.*

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](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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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