

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GALLBLADDER REMOVAL WAITING TIMES

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

Questions:

Please provide the following data regarding Cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal) in NHS Lothian. Please provide the data broken down by year and for the current year to date (2025/26):

1. The Median, Mean, and 90th Percentile wait times (in weeks) from 'Decision to Treat' to 'Date of Procedure' for:

a) Patients categorized as Urgent.

b) Patients categorized as Routine.

Answer:

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

| Gallbladder removal waiting times, NHS Lothian | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Year end | Priority | Number of completed waits | Median wait (days) | Mean wait (days) | 90th percentile wait (days) |
| March 2024 | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 15 | 27.0 | 31.0 | 48.6 |
| | Urgent | 368 | 71.0 | 146.6 | 447.0 |
| | Routine | 222 | 638.5 | 620.1 | 851.7 |
| March 2025 | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 12 | 27.5 | 31.5 | 50.9 |
| | Urgent | 351 | 34.0 | 129.0 | 401.0 |
| | Routine | 311 | 607.0 | 556.8 | 754.0 |
| March 2026 (to 2 March) | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 12 | 21.0 | 39.1 | 82.9 |
| | Urgent | 321 | 138.0 | 215.2 | 539.0 |
| | Routine | 319 | 536.0 | 514.9 | 737.4 |

Question:

2. The total number of patients added to the waiting list for this procedure in each of those years, categorized by priority (Urgent vs. Routine).

Answer:

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

| Gallbladder removal new patients added to waiting list, NHS Lothian | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year end | Priority | Number of new patients |
| March 2024 | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 18 |
| | Urgent | 501 |
| | Routine | 606 |
| March 2025 | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 17 |
| | Urgent | 485 |
| | Routine | 531 |
| March 2026 (to 2 March) | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 13 |
| | Urgent | 535 |
| | Routine | 682 |

Question:

3. The percentage of patients in each priority category who were treated within the 12-week legal Treatment Time Guarantee for each year.

Answer:

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

| Gallbladder removal waiting times, percentage within 12 weeks, NHS Lothian | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Year end | Priority | Number of patients | Number seen within 12 weeks | Percentage seen within 12 weeks |
| March 2024 | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 15 | 15 | 100.0% |
| | Urgent | 368 | 194 | 52.7% |
| | Routine | 222 | 11 | 5.0% |
| March 2025 | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 12 | 12 | 100.0% |
| | Urgent | 351 | 222 | 63.2% |
| | Routine | 311 | 25 | 8.0% |
| March 2026 (to 2 March) | Suspected / confirmed cancer | 12 | 10 | 83.3% |
| | Urgent | 321 | 149 | 46.4% |
| | Routine | 319 | 20 | 6.3% |

Question:

4. The number of patients currently on the ongoing waiting list for this procedure as of the latest available date in 2026, broken down by priority.



Answer:

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

| Patients currently waiting for Gallbladder removal, NHS Lothian, March 2026 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Priority | Number of patients waiting |
| Urgent | 329 |
| Routine | 680 |

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