

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ALZHEIMER’S

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Alzheimer’s.

Due to how data is recording across the four Healthcare Partnerships in Lothian, we are only able to report the information for Edinburgh City and West Lothian. We are unable to include East & Midlothian. The time period reported is the 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. As requested, the data reported only includes referrals from GPs.

Question:

1. Waiting times for diagnostic assessment for Alzheimer’s disease

For the most recent 12-month period for which data is available, please provide:

- The **average, median, shortest, and longest** waiting times from **GP referral to initial memory clinic appointment**.

Answer:

Wait from referral to initial appointment	
Average	Median
23.2	27

- The same waiting time metrics for the full pathway from: **GP referral → memory clinic initial assessment → diagnostic assessment → confirmed diagnosis** (where applicable).

We are unable to report this information from the patient information system

Question:

2. Number of patients

- The number of individuals referred by GPs to memory services for suspected Alzheimer’s disease in the same period.

Answer:

The number of referrals from GPs for the HSCPs as outlined in the notes on the data between 1st April 2025 & 31st March 2026 was 1,203

- The number who received a confirmed diagnosis.

We are unable to accurately report this from the patient information system.

Question:

3. Service capacity

- Current staffing levels (WTE) for memory assessment services (e.g., psychology, psychiatry, specialist nurses, allied health professionals).
- Any documented service pressures, backlogs, or recovery plans relating to memory assessment waiting times.

Answer:

West Lothian - Memory Diagnostic Clinic run by a consultant psychiatrist and an ANP. There is no other documentation in relation to this.

Edinburgh HSCP - It is not possible to separate staffing out from psychiatry provision. EHSCP is continually review pathways and consider opportunities for quality improvement. This supports us in our endeavour to meet NHS Scotland Waiting Time Standards, as set out in the relevant 2023 guidance.

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
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Cc: Chief Executive