

Date 25/05/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11419R

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REVIEW - WAITING LISTS

I write in response to your request for review of NHS Lothian's response to your Freedom of Information request about waiting lists. Having discussed your request and our response of 15 April 2026, I can respond as follows:

Original Request and Response:

Question:

1. How many people were ahead of me on the waiting list on the day I joined it?

Answer:

I must advise that we cannot provide this detail under FOI(S)A as we would need to access information on yourself and other individuals. This information is considered exempt under Section 38(1)(a)(b) – personal information

Question:

2. On average, how many patients undergo the routine procedure every week?

Answer:

There is an average of 6 removals per week from the IP/DC waiting list where the local procedure is recorded as 'Ablation' and the waiting list priority is routine.

Question:

3. As of today, or the day on which you answer my questions, or the nearest practicable date, how many people were ahead of me on the routine list?

Answer:

As per response to question 1 - I must advise that we cannot provide this detail under FOI(S)A as we would need to access information on yourself and other individuals. This information is considered exempt under Section 38(1)(a)(b) – personal information

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*

Review Request:

- For the avoidance of any doubt, I should point out that none of my three questions was answered. The second one sought to know how many people are being *treated* each week on average, not how many are removed from the waiting list. Such removals could be because someone has moved away, died, decided to go private or no doubt for other reasons, as well of course because they've had the procedure.

Review Response:

I must advise that in relation to question 1 and 3 it remains our view that this information falls within the Section 38(1)(a)(b) exemption – personal information. Information in relation to the waiting list position of yourself or other individuals is identifiable and cannot be released under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For question 2 we can provide the following to clarify and answer your request more fully:
The average number of removals from the Ablation routine inpatient waiting list for the 12 week period (Week end 11/01/26 - 29/03/2026)

Removals Seen	All Removals
5.7	7.3

Notes:

1. Local procedure = Ablation	2. Priority Group = Routine
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If you are not satisfied with this response you still have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner who you can contact at the address below or 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.

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
e-mail: enquiries@foi.scot

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Reviewer/
NHS Lothian**
cc: Executive Nurse Director