

Date 10 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11501

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING LISTS

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

Question:

1. The number of patients removed from elective treatment or surgery waiting lists because they were recorded as unavailable for treatment.
2. The number of patients removed from gynaecology waiting lists because they were recorded as unavailable for treatment

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet

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:

3. The number of complaints received relating to:
 - a. removal from waiting lists
 - b. communication surrounding waiting list removals
 - c. delays linked to pregnancy, where recorded

Answer:

01.04.2020 and 01.06.2026	
Number of Complaints regarding removal from waiting list	40
Number related to communication around removal from waiting list	7
Number relating to pregnancy	0

Datix does not categorise complaints under the headings requested. Therefore, a search of Datix was undertaken using terms relating to waiting list removal for the period 1 April 2020 to 1 June 2026. This search identified 40 complaints containing terms relating to waiting list removal, of which 7 related to communication surrounding removal from waiting lists.

We are unable to provide a figure for complaints relating to delays linked to pregnancy, as this information is not held in a reportable format. While a small number of complaints identified through the search related to gynaecology services, it is not possible to determine whether they related to pregnancy without a manual review of individual complaint records.

Question:

4. Copies of any current guidance, policies or standard operating procedures relating to patients who become pregnant while on an elective waiting list.
5. Copies of any standard letters or patient communications used to notify patients they have been removed from a waiting list.

Answer:

See enclosed.

Question:

6. Copies of any Equality Impact Assessments or formal reviews concerning the impact of waiting list management policies on women or pregnant patients.

Answer:

There are no equality impact assessments on the impact of waiting list policies on pregnant women.

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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive