

Date 30 July 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11622

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PROSTATE CANCER

I write in response to your request for information in relation to prostate cancer.

Question:

- Please provide the following data for each of the last three calendar years (**2023, 2024, and 2025**). Please categorise all data using the NHS standard 18+1 ethnic category codes. If granular data triggers privacy thresholds or Section 40 exemptions, please group them into broad categories (**White, Black African, Black Caribbean, Mixed Black, Asian, Mixed/Other, and Not Stated/Unknown**).

Specifically, I request:

1. Total Diagnoses & Age Baseline

- The total number of patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer (ICD-10 code C61), broken down by ethnic group.
- The median age at diagnosis for prostate cancer patients, broken down by ethnic group.
- The total number of individuals diagnosed under the age of 55, broken down by ethnic group.

2. Stage at Diagnosis

- The number and percentage of these patients diagnosed at Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, and Stage 4, broken down by ethnic group.

3. Referral Route

- The primary route of referral (e.g., Urgent GP 2-Week Wait, routine GP referral, Emergency Admission, or Secondary Care transfer), broken down by ethnic group.

4. The Diagnostic Timeline

- The median number of days from the initial urgent GP referral to the diagnostic multiparametric MRI (mpMRI) scan, broken down by ethnic group.
- The median number of days from the mpMRI scan to a definitive prostate biopsy, broken down by ethnic group.

5. Root Cause of Target Breaches

- The percentage of patients who breached the national 62-day urgent referral-to-treatment target, broken down by ethnic group.
- For those patients who breached the 62-day target, provide a percentage breakdown of the primary **Delay Reason Code** (per the NHS National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Dataset), aggregated by ethnic group—specifically contrasting provider-driven delays (e.g., *Capacity inadequate*, *Complex diagnostic pathway*) against patient-driven delays (e.g., *Patient Choice*, *Patient DNA*).

6. Population Catchment Area Baseline

- The estimated total population size, or the percentage demographic breakdown, of the primary Integrated Care Board (ICB) or catchment area that this Trust serves.

Answer:

I am advised that information in relation to ethnicity is not held in a centrally extractable format.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

I am sorry I cannot help 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