

Date 11 August 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11708

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GYNAECOLOGY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to gynaecology.

Question:

1. How long are patients having to wait to have an IUS contraceptive device fitted?

Answer:

There are several routes to accessing a routine IUD/IUS appointment with Lothian Sexual Health. Individuals can either self-book an appointment online or attend our weekly LARC drop-in clinics for a same-day procedure at either Chalmers Centre or Howden Health Centre. New appointments are opened online on a fortnightly basis.

As such we do not have a formal waiting list for a routine IUD insertion within Lothian Sexual Health. We do reserve a small number of appointments for GP referrals for individuals who may find it difficult to use the online booking system or attend a drop-in. Patients are usually appointed within 4 weeks of these referrals being received.

Question:

2. How long are patients having to wait to have an IUD contraceptive device fitted?

Answer:

This depends on which service the patient is referred to and the nature of the referral. We have specific referral criteria for the Community Gynaecology service at Chalmers Centre, but most gynaecology referrals in Lothian are managed through hospital services. All Community Gynaecology referrals received by Chalmers Centre are triaged by a clinician and prioritised according to clinical need. The current waiting time for a routine Community Gynaecology appointment is around 4-6 weeks.

Question:

3. How long are patients having to wait to have a gynaecology appointment?

Answer:

I am advised that this information is publicly available via the following:

<https://www.nhsllothian.scot/yourrights/health-rights-waiting-times/nhs-lothian-outpatient-waiting-times/>

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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