

Date 20 August 2026
Our Ref 11716

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HIP REPLACEMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to hip replacement.

Question:

- The mean waiting times for a first consultation for a hip replacement in NHS Lothian.
- The longest waiting time for a first consultation for a hip replacement in NHS Lothian.

Answer:

Hip replacement waiting list removals over the past 65 weeks

Removals	Avg. Wait (Days)	Median Wait (Days)	Percentile (90) of Wait (Days)
1762	318.3	241	692.9

**Includes all inpatient and daycase waits who were removed from the waiting list for a hip replacement in the last 65 weeks.*

**Includes the following local procedures;*

Arthroscopy Hip

Complex Primary Hip Replacement

Primary Hip Replacement

Revision Hip Replacement

Question:

- What criteria NHS Lothian applies when deciding how urgent a patient's need for a hip replacement is, including any assessment of ongoing pain and pain management.
- What actions are being taken by NHS Lothian to address severely long waiting times in orthopaedics, including for hip replacement.

Answer:

Guidelines for 'Urgent priority' are:

Failing Joint Replacement

Alternative to Urgent Arthroplasty Appointment: Consider Urgent Review in Arthroplasty Practitioner clinic and/or consider contacting consultant in charge of care/ operating consultant if still in post.

Failure of fracture fixation

Alternative to Urgent Arthroplasty Appointment: Consider contacting a consultant in charge of care/ operating consultant if still in post.

Failing Native Joint

Radiographic evidence of severe deformity or significant collapse (AVN).

Suspected Malignancy

Other urgent: Valgus knee joint, risk of loss of employment, formal carer.

In relation to your enquiry regarding the actions being taken to reduce waiting times, NHS Lothian continues to implement a range of measures to increase treatment capacity and improve access to orthopaedic services.

These measures include maximising available internal capacity through the use of theatre sessions across NHS Lothian sites and ongoing service improvement work. NHS Lothian also makes use of additional treatment capacity offered by external partners, including the National Treatment Centres, and independent sector providers.

Further work is being undertaken to regularly review and validate waiting lists to ensure patients are prioritised appropriately according to clinical need and that waiting list records remain accurate and up to date. In addition, several workforce and productivity initiatives are in place to optimise theatre efficiency, reduce cancellations where possible, and maximise the number of procedures delivered within available resources.

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