

Date: 18/08/2026
Our Ref: 11725
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MSK PHYSIOTHERAPY WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to MSK physiotherapy waiting times in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Can you please confirm the current waiting times for a person that has been referred to Midlothian MSK Physiotherapy (from referral date to start date of physiotherapy treatment), after the person has had an MRI scan on their back and been diagnosed with multilevel degenerative lumbar spondylotic changes with disc herniations at L4/L5 and L5/S1 but no neural compression and there is evidence of early degenerative osteoporotic changes in the spine.

Answer:

It is not possible to give an average waiting time for such a specific case description. This information would only be held in individual patient records, and in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

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 <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.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive