

Date: 04/09/2026
Our Ref: 11810
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GLAUCOMA WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to waiting times for glaucoma treatment in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many patients are on the waiting list to be seen for Glaucoma treatment in each of the last five financial years, including this year?
2. What are the average and longest waits for patients, by year?

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. We are not able to give the longest individual wait as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018. Instead, we have given the 90th percentile wait, which is the number of days by which 90% of patients had been treated.

Glaucoma waiting times, NHS Lothian			
Financial year	Completed waits	Average waiting time (days)	90th percentile waiting time (days)
2021/22	1,131	253.2	538.0
2022/23	905	188.8	454.0
2023/24	1,181	324.2	676.3
2024/25	905	318.4	704.2
2025/26	1,910	402.6	733.0
2026/27 (to 31 July 2026)	1,177	219.5	399.4

Question:

3. How many patients have waited over the 12 week waiting time target, by year?
4. How many patients have waited over a year, by year?

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Glaucoma waits over 12 weeks and 52 weeks, NHS Lothian		
Year	Patients waiting over 12 weeks	Patients waiting over 52 weeks
2021/22	717	343
2022/23	455	258
2023/24	789	526
2024/25	725	349
2025/26	1,660	1,078
2026/27 (to 31 July 2026)	958	176

Question:

5. What is the waiting time for a new patient?

Answer:

The waiting times are detailed in the table below:

Glaucoma current waiting times, NHS Lothian	
Waiting list	Waiting time
Consultant routine	25 weeks
Consultant urgent	7 weeks
Optometry routine	21 weeks

Question:

6. How many Glaucoma Consultants and how many consultant vacancies do you have in your health board?

Answer:

There are currently 4 consultants and 0 vacancies.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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