

Date 10 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11811

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
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richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to hip and knee replacements.

Question:

- How many patients are on the waiting list to be seen for hip and knee replacements in each of the last five financial years, including this year?
- What are the average and longest waits for patients, by year?
- How many patients have waited over the waiting time target, by year?
- How many patients have waited over a year, by year?
- What is the waiting time for a new patient?

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet. For the longest wait we have provided the 90th percentile, to provide individual longest waits would be highly identifiable. Therefore it is considered exempt under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – personal information.

Question:

- How many hip and knee surgeons and how many surgeon vacancies do you have in your health board?

Answer:

In the last 12 months 16 of our consultants performed hip or knee replacement surgery. This includes some consultants who primarily do trauma.

For medical vacancies, you can use the TURAS Official Workforce Statistics Dashboard to identify the number of surgery vacancies within NHS Lothian using the following link: <https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-september-2026-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-workforce/?pageid=16876>

Instructions:

View 'vacancy' within in reports tab on left hand side. Fill in:

- Census Date: Select relevant census date.
- NHS Board - select NHS Lothian Board
- View data – Medical & Dental Consultants
- Select relevant specialty i.e. general surgery, cardiothoracic surgery etc
- Select Vacancy Measure as appropriate.
- Select Employment Measure as appropriate
- Select Number/vacancy rate as appropriate

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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.

Hip and Knee Replacement WTs- FOI11811

Questions: How many patients are on the waiting list to be seen for hip and knee replacements in each of the last five financial years, including this year?
What are the average and longest waits for patients, by year?
How many patients have waited over the waiting time target, by year?
How many patients have waited over a year, by year?
What is the waiting time for a new patient?
How many hip and knee surgeons and how many surgeon vacancies do you have in your health board?

Source: TRAK ORACLE **Please note that this analysis comes from a LIVE System - if this analysis were to be re-run at a later date the figures may be subject to change.*

Date Extracted: 25th August 2026

Answers:

Hip and knee replacement inpatient waiting times

Financial Year	Patients	Avg. Wait (Days)	Percentile (90th) of Wait (Days)
2021/22	631	256.3	499.0
2022/23	991	339.2	730.8
2023/24	1535	456.2	868.0
2024/25	1516	414.7	788.1
2025/26	1611	378.9	712.0
2026/27*	604	319.2	555.0

IP Waited over 12 week target

Financial Year	Patients
2021/22	526
2022/23	884
2023/24	1439
2024/25	1379
2025/26	1455
2026/27*	530

IP Waited over 52 weeks

Financial Year	Patients
2021/22	191
2022/23	371
2023/24	750
2024/25	653
2025/26	745
2026/27*	260

Arthroplasty New outpatient waiting times

Financial Year	Patients	Avg. Wait (Days)	Percentile (90th) of Wait (Days)
2021/22	3986	214.0	331.0
2022/23	4399	132.7	183.0
2023/24	4228	134.0	196.0
2024/25	3330	171.4	343.0
2025/26	3894	319.2	519.0
2026/27*	1383	342.2	514.0

OP Waited over 12 week target

Financial Year	Patients
2021/22	3178
2022/23	3428
2023/24	3064
2024/25	1806
2025/26	2892
2026/27*	1278

OP Waited over 52 weeks

Financial Year	Patients
2021/22	149
2022/23	24
2023/24	6
2024/25	235
2025/26	2101
2026/27*	720

There were 26 unique HCP's that performed Hip and Knee Replacements in the last 5 financial years.

Notes

**Includes all inpatient and daycase waits who were removed from the waiting list for a hip replacement and knee replacement between '01-Apr-2021' and '31-Jul-2026'.*

**Includes the following inpatient local procedures;*

Complex Primary Hip Replacement

Primary Hip Replacement

Primary Knee Replacement

Revision Knee Replacement

Revision Hip Replacement

**Includes all outpatient Arthroplasty New waits who were removed from the waiting list between '01-Apr-2021' and '31-Jul-2026'.*