

Date 24 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11871

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PROSTATE CANCER

I write in response to your request for information in relation prostate cancer.

Question:

- Pre-biopsy prostate MRI is central to accurate prostate cancer diagnosis, helping to reduce unnecessary biopsies and improve detection of clinically significant disease. However, rising incidence, growing demand for MRI within diagnostic and screening pathways, and evidence of variable image quality are placing increasing pressure on NHS services - threatening equitable access and consistent diagnostic performance.

The last national assessment of prostate MRI capacity was conducted in 2019. PROACTIVE aims to address this gap by evaluating current NHS capacity and quality, and implementing a structured improvement programme to support equitable, high-quality prostate cancer imaging nationwide.

This questionnaire forms the first phase of the study. To ensure a complete national picture, data are being collected via a Freedom of Information request. This approach has been chosen to maximise response rates and ensure no trust is inadvertently excluded from the assessment. Responses will inform national recommendations only - no individual institution will be identified or singled out.

Answer:

Trust Details

- Trust full name: **NHS Lothian**
- Trust address:
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
- Trust postcode: **EH8 8BG**

Scanner Inventory

- How many MRI scanners are used for prostate imaging at your Trust? (N):
3 SCANNERS - Inhouse at WGH, University and In-health mobile van

(For each scanner)

- Manufacturer: **SIEMMENS**
- Scanner Model: **Magneton Era (inhouse)**
- Scanner magnetic field strength (T): **University scanner: 3T; Inhouse and Mobile van: 1.5T**
- What year was the scanner manufactured?: **2013 (inhouse)**
- What year was the scanner software last updated?: **no record of the most recent scanner software update**
- Is this scanner a permanent or mobile unit?: **2 PERMANENT, 1 MOBILE**
- Is this scanner PIRADS v2.1 compliant?: **YES**
- If 'NO', why is this scanner PIRADS v2.1 non-compliant? (Example: lack of high b-value ($\geq 1,400$ sec/mm²) image set): **N/A**
- Is an endorectal coil used with this scanner?: **NO**
- If 'YES', please describe the endorectal coil used with this scanner (Example: DxTx Medical, eCoil): **N/A**
- Are any AI-based reconstruction or acquisition acceleration techniques used with this MRI scanner? (Example: No / **Yes, vendor-provided** / Yes, third-party AI software / Other):
- If 'Other', please describe: **N/A**
- What is the full time slot that you dedicate to a multiparametric prostate MRI scan, including set-up, patient preparation time, imaging sequences, and patient turnaround? (X minutes): **30 MINUTES**
- What is the full time slot (minutes) that you dedicate to a biparametric prostate MRI scan, including set-up, patient preparation time, imaging sequences, and patient turnaround? (X minutes): **N/A**

Supplementary Imaging Techniques

- Do you use an antispasmodic during prostate MRI imaging?: **YES**
- If 'YES', please describe your antispasmodic drug, route of administration and dose (Example: Hyoscine butyl bromide, intramuscular, 20mg): **Hyoscine butyl bromide, intravenous, 20mg**
- Do you use any bowel preparation before prostate MRI imaging?: **NO**
- If 'YES', please describe your method of bowel preparation (Example: Rectal enema): **N/A**
- Do you currently use an AI algorithm (commercial or academic) as part of your clinical workflow for prostate MRI reporting?: **NO**
- If 'YES', please describe which algorithm(s) is currently being used (Example: Pi - Lucida Medical): **N/A**

Capacity

- How many prostate MRIs were performed at the Trust in the last 3 months? **782**
- In the past 3 months, what proportion(%) of these scans were biparametric? **0%**
- How many prostate MRIs were performed at the Trust in 2025? **2676**
- In 2025, what proportion(%) of these scans were biparametric? **0%**

- How many prostate MRIs were performed at the Trust in 2024? **1,972**
- In 2024, what proportion(%) of these scans were biparametric? **0%**
- How many prostate MRIs were performed at the Trust in 2023? **2,122**
- In 2023, what proportion(%) of these scans were biparametric? **0%**

Workforce

- How many radiologists report prostate MRIs at your Trust? (N): **9**

(For each radiologist)

- How many prostate MRIs does radiologist X report per year? **ABOUT 300 REPORTS PER RADIOLOGIST**
- How many years of experience does radiologist X have in reporting prostate MRIs? **10 YEARS**

Access

- Based on the last 3 months, what is the mean wait time (days) for patients to receive an MRI having been referred onto the 2-week suspected prostate cancer pathway? (Duration from date of referral to date of scan in days): **8 DAYS**
- Based on the last 3 months, what is the mean wait time (days) for prostate MRI interpretation by a radiologist? (Duration from date of scan to date of report in days): **6 DAYS**

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