Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
www.nhslothian.scot

Date 12 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11982

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to waiting times.

Question:

- In each of the past 10 financial years and the current financial year (2015/16– 2026/27), broken down by both hospital and month.

1. How many patients waited over a) 15 minutes; b) 30 minutes; c) 45 minutes) d) one hour to be triaged?

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet. To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

2. What was the longest A&E triage time?

Answer:

It is not possible to provide detail in relation to single longest waits as this would be highly identifiable. 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.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx

Yours sincerely

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

FOI: 11982

Request:

In each of the past 10 financial years and the current financial year (2015/16– 2026/27), broken down by both hospital and month.

1.How many patients waited over a) 15 minutes; b) 30 minutes; c) 45 minutes) d) one hour to be triaged?
2.What was the longest A&E triage time?

Date Extracted: 30/09/2026

Source: NHS Lothian TRAK

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.

Notes:

1. Time to triage is recorded as time until triage is completed
2. Number of patients waiting over 30 mins includes patients waiting over 15 mins etc.
3. Includes attendances up to 29/09/26

Response: **Question 1: How many patients waited over a) 15 minutes; b) 30 minutes; c) 45 minutes; d) one hour to be triaged?**

Table 1a: Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh - patients waiting over 15 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	5422	5724	5973	6002	4680	1806	3357	5433	6451	6708	6912	6731
May	5540	6612	6607	6469	5217	2639	4035	6055	7077	7360	6864	7709
June	5515	5871	5960	6282	4856	3221	4663	6426	6584	7071	5937	7029
July	5405	5667	6068	6620	4189	3381	4614	6072	6803	7082	6235	7137
August	6250	6688	6430	6923	5081	4088	5263	6817	7362	7815	7352	8267
September	5999	6631	6457	6498	5301	4013	5163	6535	7235	7675	7124	7788
October	5889	6415	6215	5837	5051	3263	5115	6590	7168	7928	6885	
November	5663	5835	6386	5616	4683	3052	4378	6565	6870	7312	6582	
December	5450	5677	6763	5395	4878	2572	3607	6463	6801	7226	6556	
January	6164	5649	5741	4585	4897	2495	3777	5919	6758	7162	6788	
February	6385	5165	5382	4207	5155	2315	4355	6007	6503	6754	6353	
March	6666	5771	6283	4376	3483	3162	6111	6516	7087	7658	7386	

Table 1b: Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh - patients waiting over 30 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	3110	3546	3704	3753	2297	623	1695	2648	3767	4282	3615	3331
May	2898	4166	4276	4130	2876	975	2125	3137	4270	4791	3522	4456
June	2948	3390	3675	3907	2839	1428	2917	3845	3966	4748	2812	3965
July	2997	3097	3385	4182	2039	1610	2633	3215	3803	4629	3032	3805
August	3390	4157	4089	4428	2968	2071	3324	4354	4337	5120	4059	5282
September	3378	4494	4100	4278	2990	2065	3510	4271	4503	5360	4303	5509
October	3334	4036	3697	3276	2575	1493	3384	4273	4757	5521	3693	
November	3184	3600	4195	2913	2392	1342	2549	4226	4826	5167	3695	
December	2987	3325	4759	2764	2677	1088	1899	4310	4799	4944	3814	
January	3801	3259	3402	2020	2375	1034	1977	3321	4846	4959	3751	
February	4331	3084	3463	2098	2956	1006	2461	3983	4485	4557	3651	
March	4285	3340	4343	2235	1700	1455	3428	4155	4927	4365	4149	

Table 1c: Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh - patients waiting over 45 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	1608	2006	2182	2183	1151	290	980	1452	2177	2775	2050	1699
May	1344	2462	2588	2465	1559	577	1087	1935	2612	3064	1944	2609
June	1352	1711	2141	2280	1633	816	1754	2444	2372	2983	1496	2376
July	1489	1391	1743	2421	1036	944	1555	1736	2181	2903	1627	2103
August	1552	2459	2410	2598	2011	1220	2116	3029	2462	3277	2307	3557
September	1627	2828	2406	2503	1859	1194	2524	2971	2835	3615	2582	3946
October	1672	2400	1990	1572	1513	752	2400	2918	3158	3798	2024	
November	1535	2077	2574	1292	1363	640	1605	2913	3373	3579	2068	
December	1502	1844	3160	1308	1518	517	1160	2909	3371	3269	2233	
January	2055	1689	1879	778	1450	569	1174	1987	3559	3469	2050	
February	2765	1747	2104	1018	1801	496	1407	2574	3080	2929	2053	
March	2527	1790	2875	1180	1058	745	2104	2695	3413	2312	2400	

Table 1d: Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh - patients waiting over 60 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	765	1012	1162	1184	530	142	543	857	1246	1807	1218	860
May	558	1339	1464	1354	812	365	524	1232	1608	1954	1215	1506

June	551	746	1174	1130	951	495	1048	1564	1428	1811	885	1353
July	660	563	796	1270	565	561	896	977	1285	1799	1026	1169
August	678	1383	1290	1299	1427	726	1364	2065	1501	2167	1412	2433
September	684	1658	1352	1328	1293	656	1678	2156	1847	2399	1609	2881
October	822	1379	985	690	910	434	1648	2002	2047	2659	1066	
November	684	1095	1421	523	818	355	994	2055	2317	2488	1132	
December	711	997	1895	494	879	247	736	1999	2351	2152	1297	
January	977	779	940	237	883	335	711	1213	2686	2539	1164	
February	1580	863	1228	465	1067	237	812	1659	2133	1865	1192	
March	1304	887	1790	606	689	422	1405	1734	2347	1229	1483	

Table 2a: St John's Hospital at Howden - patients waiting over 15 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	2954	3356	3220	3345	3544	819	2247	2893	3340	3440	3540	4016
May	3062	3676	3548	3813	3450	1265	2473	3234	3710	3769	3520	4155
June	3111	3465	3199	3503	3769	1521	2911	3557	3717	3378	3383	3809
July	2813	3078	3050	3331	3542	1588	2746	3174	2937	3268	3272	3700
August	3115	3291	3461	3543	3467	1989	3376	3507	3258	3492	3663	3911
September	2953	3350	3426	3384	3676	1857	3524	3173	3205	3655	3851	3642
October	2913	3284	3245	3306	3393	1868	3443	3488	3300	3653	3732	
November	2821	3013	3025	3455	3582	1249	2641	3436	3206	3502	3849	
December	3105	2898	3559	3514	3407	1360	2597	3751	3448	3467	3474	
January	3121	3020	2993	3615	3462	1168	2667	2887	3348	3348	3696	
February	3162	2782	2990	3342	2885	1285	2528	2753	3244	2647	3399	
March	3559	3359	3267	3804	2015	1740	3358	3474	3761	3476	3935	

Table 2b: St John's Hospital at Howden - patients waiting over 30 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	1589	2134	1773	1835	1927	125	428	1025	1696	1906	2035	2545
May	1628	2130	1923	2193	1635	183	483	1237	1650	1831	1766	2595
June	1727	2075	1792	1970	2073	183	839	1617	1861	1439	1684	1868
July	1550	1639	1555	1630	1749	175	800	1466	1084	1512	1444	1832
August	1612	1790	2073	1894	1509	296	1416	1712	1340	1772	2139	2034
September	1572	1982	2029	1814	1726	332	1786	1416	1285	1987	2382	1916
October	1564	1923	1846	1796	1556	324	1861	1862	1392	2162	2137	
November	1482	1525	1781	1934	1769	133	954	1926	1508	2112	2493	
December	1719	1458	2350	1940	1710	219	902	2363	1644	2188	1942	
January	1701	1523	1647	2170	1547	144	1057	1347	1685	2054	2282	
February	2074	1515	1697	1867	1112	237	863	1182	1663	1292	2200	
March	2336	1891	1937	2158	601	214	1463	1827	1909	1947	2323	

Table 2c: St John's Hospital at Howden - patients waiting over 45 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	783	1182	847	942	916	18	73	293	774	938	1034	1414
May	722	1122	915	1062	630	33	66	397	664	739	781	1362
June	885	1134	928	932	1037	25	239	557	697	502	703	777
July	743	716	634	694	723	21	223	647	404	622	490	820
August	764	892	1067	806	527	40	488	775	484	807	1048	979
September	731	1058	1057	881	607	43	782	545	490	847	1290	855
October	759	1060	918	819	581	45	913	904	508	1194	1101	
November	676	709	944	959	679	12	321	928	570	1205	1532	
December	869	683	1392	1006	804	38	306	1419	723	1288	1013	
January	841	715	854	1229	622	15	394	575	793	1185	1304	
February	1249	685	825	961	316	32	272	405	751	564	1219	
March	1493	949	1089	1073	163	21	581	870	877	979	1200	

Table 2d: St John's Hospital at Howden- patients waiting over 60 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	371	634	356	404	380	3	12	83	358	455	426	698
May	307	583	389	414	242	13	9	138	258	275	323	633
June	470	578	449	331	454	7	80	200	227	183	229	317
July	330	278	239	243	267	7	79	309	146	233	127	338
August	364	389	451	316	159	1	162	373	164	367	446	458
September	314	498	493	345	191	3	378	221	172	341	606	328
October	345	598	394	318	185	7	444	379	186	629	461	
November	298	289	447	448	240	5	120	449	208	667	863	
December	418	348	829	455	363	21	90	833	275	756	543	
January	417	329	432	600	183	1	142	234	375	580	650	
February	752	270	374	445	60	6	87	138	285	220	615	
March	919	425	578	474	48	2	225	353	426	479	612	

Table 3a: Western General Hospital - patients waiting over 15 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	1229	1741	1466	1785	1845	320	655	1519	1346	1762	2060	1937
May	1164	1488	1888	1698	1958	622	851	1635	1561	1782	2364	2117
June	1138	1494	1626	1362	1696	720	965	1575	1678	1691	2180	2186
July	1335	1239	1470	1544	1889	690	1060	1350	1496	1499	2294	2160
August	1345	1760	1725	1988	2128	863	1306	1477	1635	2180	2686	2038
September	1497	1663	1709	2245	1999	941	1339	1328	1674	2429	2326	2208
October	1413	1703	1543	2033	1851	800	1071	1570	1477	2202	2372	
November	1345	1575	1467	1847	2042	617	1140	1649	1471	2197	2249	
December	1389	1550	1904	1554	1616	523	831	1515	1383	1916	1991	
January	1444	1603	1911	1813	1939	435	964	1446	1416	2062	1920	
February	1589	1501	1622	1768	1816	435	1022	1401	1447	2004	1758	
March	1913	1777	1838	1946	1077	564	1683	1441	1709	2203	2158	

Table 3b: Western General Hospital - patients waiting over 30 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	698	1023	811	1006	1214	113	264	753	638	968	1255	991
May	615	783	991	800	1305	291	382	823	694	946	1521	1121
June	613	835	884	646	1001	406	500	817	804	963	1353	1305
July	726	665	743	834	1259	381	534	582	609	693	1603	1210
August	726	885	937	1076	1484	468	775	666	701	1469	1954	1227
September	817	948	944	1404	1402	443	832	610	856	1750	1575	1299
October	825	924	881	1267	1171	389	577	857	647	1555	1568	
November	790	928	811	1076	1481	287	721	883	703	1529	1532	
December	844	879	1246	881	949	212	383	791	720	1311	1243	
January	963	918	1126	1034	1328	204	497	719	658	1435	1072	
February	938	906	985	1093	1253	161	537	730	710	1296	920	
March	1185	1051	1061	1218	729	217	954	702	811	1388	1097	

Table 3c: Western General Hospital - patients waiting over 45 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	429	623	438	620	801	45	100	412	328	630	728	527
May	381	451	556	398	831	159	193	503	298	527	954	591
June	362	473	478	340	577	237	294	464	396	607	803	796
July	411	348	382	420	804	213	294	302	282	386	1045	708
August	413	476	507	613	1089	274	494	325	392	947	1379	780
September	534	623	536	806	1020	235	577	357	496	1193	1091	799
October	502	582	511	799	769	173	353	546	293	1030	1059	
November	509	521	493	637	1101	135	492	543	370	1008	1045	
December	558	496	847	546	556	109	197	465	397	832	732	
January	703	559	680	588	889	107	264	403	345	951	523	
February	578	562	638	617	850	77	312	436	388	808	444	
March	764	579	714	671	536	97	608	403	406	844	619	

Table 3d: Western General Hospital - patients waiting over 60 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	285	377	220	405	509	18	46	220	175	423	404	297
May	250	255	284	197	527	89	91	313	132	310	578	315
June	229	276	212	159	323	122	171	268	235	386	490	501
July	255	179	175	227	494	139	166	167	145	252	670	432
August	266	269	275	404	785	148	307	209	215	628	945	477
September	342	382	319	466	738	126	396	215	290	784	728	549
October	314	351	251	497	514	93	213	343	128	692	689	
November	352	303	283	352	798	64	337	356	216	641	679	
December	358	277	580	335	316	56	100	307	230	547	456	
January	499	351	411	350	588	65	137	245	185	613	238	
February	357	348	363	349	583	41	204	284	231	517	212	
March	492	302	455	325	369	48	392	228	223	497	338	

Table 4a: Royal Hospital for Children and Young People - patients waiting over 15 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	437	766	821	819	860	477	658	1467	1327	1773	1524	1631
May	301	991	971	740	792	657	1158	2118	1616	1778	1811	2088
June	288	636	703	746	579	754	1408	2038	1196	2050	1635	1650
July	278	351	369	341	366	768	896	1027	743	842	912	1062
August	298	505	417	513	583	1042	1779	1334	971	1220	1341	1495
September	489	682	655	813	1047	833	2843	1880	1376	1371	1598	1476
October	466	858	645	729	1106	560	2138	2328	1670	1766	1373	
November	781	1150	1362	1505	1674	468	1998	2887	2173	2217	2693	
December	533	985	1080	1562	1165	487	1273	3665	2138	2353	2274	
January	502	664	551	1168	478	309	1046	1148	1586	1231	1886	
February	712	650	874	1138	547	219	1167	1438	1972	1228	1753	
March	857	1179	682	1275	812	436	2001	1888	2426	2181	2463	

Table 4b: Royal Hospital for Children and Young People - patients waiting over 30 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	24	52	69	72	42	78	50	126	197	357	138	231
May	12	53	105	56	55	67	103	247	199	212	209	338
June	7	29	59	38	18	55	118	271	71	352	159	200
July	17	13	23	16	18	63	85	72	63	42	65	103
August	21	22	23	24	24	162	286	99	89	182	125	150
September	27	39	49	77	57	109	547	220	111	129	162	222
October	24	79	51	53	79	61	355	368	204	196	103	
November	55	119	136	256	204	29	269	656	535	235	540	
December	43	118	115	297	172	56	197	1322	503	537	450	
January	36	53	23	118	23	20	122	107	229	115	337	
February	75	42	73	129	24	13	120	242	316	114	233	
March	62	76	72	117	132	49	319	357	499	342	430	

Table 4c: Royal Hospital for Children and Young People - patients waiting over 45 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	6	5<	5<	5<	7	6
May	6	8	5<	5<	9	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
June	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
July	5<	5<	5<	9	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	5<
August	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	7	5<	99	5<	5<
September	9	5<	6	9	8	5<	86	5<	5<	5<	7	5<
October	6	5<	5<	6	8	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	
November	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	67	88	6	5<	
December	7	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	60	5<	
January	6	5<	5<	9	5<	6	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	
February	5<	7	5<	5<	5<	5<	9	5<	5<	9	5<	
March	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	

Table 4d: Royal Hospital for Children and Young People - patients waiting over 60 minutes to be triaged

Month	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (to date)
April	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
May	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<
June	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	6	5<
July	0	5<	5<	6	9	6	5<	7	5<	5<	6	0
August	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	7	89	5<	5<
September	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
October	5<	5<	6	5<	7	9	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	
November	5<	6	5<	5<	7	5<	8	5<	5<	5<	9	
December	5<	6	6	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	6	5<	
January	0	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	
February	5<	5<	5<	8	5<	5<	5<	8	5<	5<	5<	
March	5<	6	6	5<	8	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<	

Question 2: What was the longest A&E triage time?
This cannot be answered on the grounds of patient confidentiality.