Lothian NHS Board

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4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

Telephone: 0131 536 9000
www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Date: 10/11/2026
Our Ref: 11875
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ENDOMETRIOSIS

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

Question:

1. I would like to know how many women in Lothian are currently on waiting lists for this operation and also have stage 4 endometriosis.

Answer:

Patients with endometriosis may be waiting for a number of different surgical procedures. The number of patients waiting for each of these as of 21 September 2026 is as follows:

Patients waiting for endometriosis diagnostic and treatment surgical procedures, 21 September 2026, NHS Lothian	
Procedure	**Number of patients**
Diagnostic laparoscopy	360
Endometriosis treatment	73
Endometriosis treatment joint	41

The stage of endometriosis is not recorded centrally as part of the inpatient waiting list system. We are therefore unable to provide the number of patients on the waiting list with stage 4 endometriosis. Information will be held in individual patient records, but 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.

Question:

2. I would like to know how wait times in Lothian are comparable to other Scottish health boards.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold waiting times information for other Health Boards, but Gynaecology waiting times are publicly available on Public Health Scotland's website:

NHS Lothian does not hold waiting times information for other Scottish Health Boards. Overall Gynaecology waiting times information is available from Public Health Scotland at the following link: https://waitingtimes.publichealthscotland.scot/view-waiting-times/.

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