Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters

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

Date 3 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12020

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SURGERY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to surgery.

Question:

- Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am requesting access to the following information regarding wait times from your Health Board for the specific dates of a) December 25th , 2025 (or the closest possible date before Dec. 25), b) January 1st , 2026 (or the closest possible date before Jan. 1) and c) October 7th, 2026 (or the closest possible date before Oct. 7):

1. The median wait time for the following during the requested time frame:
    1. Knee Replacement Surgery
    2. Hip Replacement Surgery
    3. Cataract Surgery
    4. Spinal Surgery
    5. Hysterectomy Surgery
    6. Gallbladder Removal Surgery
    7. TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate)

2. Please provide the total number of individuals on waiting lists during the requested time frame for the following:
    1. Knee Replacement Surgery
    2. Hip Replacement Surgery
    3. Cataract Surgery
    4. Spinal Surgery
    5. Hysterectomy Surgery
    6. Gallbladder Removal Surgery
    7. TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate)

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:

3. Please provide the budget allocation and total expenditure by your board utilized to help eliminate the following during the requested time frame:
    1. Knee Replacement Surgery
    2. Hip Replacement Surgery
    3. Cataract Surgery
    4. Spinal Surgery
    5. Hysterectomy Surgery
    6. Gallbladder Removal Surgery
    7. TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate)

Answer:

I am advised that these costs cannot be spilt out at this level. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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.