

Freedom of Information request 181-22

Request

I am interested in information about the clinical prioritisation framework (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-elective-care-clinical-prioritisation-framework/pages/active-waiting-list-management/>) and how the board has approached waiting list management since its publication.

1. Please can I be sent monthly waiting time data organised by the categories in the clinical prioritisation framework:
 - o Level 1a emergency – operation needed within 24 hours
 - o Level 1b urgent – operation needed within 72 hours
 - o Level 2 surgery – scheduled within four weeks
 - o Level 3 surgery – scheduled within 12 weeks
 - o Level 4 surgery – may be safely scheduled after 12 weeks.

Please can I be sent this information from November 2020 (when the framework was published) to the most recently available month. If this will be too expensive under FOISA, then please can I be sent the three most recent months of waiting time data.

2. Please can I be sent correspondence – which includes but is not limited to emails, meeting minutes, and letters - between the board and Public Health Scotland about plans to publish this information publicly, from November 2020 to now.

Response

1. Please see the table below for monthly waiting time data organised by the following categories:

- Vetting Priority = Urgent Suspected Cancer is P2
- Vetting Priority = Urgent Suspicion of Cancer is P2
- Vetting Priority = Urgent is P2
- Vetting Priority = Soon is P3
- Vetting Priority = Routine is P4
- Vetting Priority = IP/DC Urgent Suspected Cancer is P2
- Vetting Priority = IP/DC Urgent is P2
- Vetting Priority = IP/DC Soon is P3
- Vetting Priority = IP/DC Routine is P4

Priority	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
P1	1	3	1	0	0	0
P2	233	259	245	254	239	204
P3	454	441	422	465	476	424
P4	1327	1411	1446	1513	1508	1689
Total	2015	2114	2114	2232	2223	2317

Please note that this data contains all patients and specialties on the surgical waiting list including those who are not reportable under the Treatment Time Guarantee Regulations.

2. NHS Borders is not aware of any discussions with the Scottish Government or Public Health Scotland concerning the publication of this data, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
Please note that target waiting times are for guidance and do not represent a guarantee.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **181-22** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.