

Freedom of Information request 198-23

Request

1. To ask the health board what are the a) average and b) longest wait times for initial Dexa scans. Please break down per month from January 2018 until now.
2. To ask the health board what are the a) average and b) longest wait times for follow-up Dexa scans. Please break down per month from January 2018 until now.
3. To ask the health board what are the a) average and b) longest wait times for results from initial Dexa scans (the time between the scan and the patient being advised of the result). Please break down per month from January 2018 until now.
4. To ask the health board what are the a) average and b) longest wait times for results from follow-up Dexa scans (the time between the scan and the patient being advised of the result). Please break down per month from January 2018 until now.
5. To ask the health board how many vacancies there currently are for radiographers?

Response

1.
 - a. The average wait times (in days) for initial Dexa scans within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	57	81	57	149	91	197
February	29	52	55	184	124	180
March	81	67	56	186	119	144
April	83	58	Covid - no activity	192	150	
May	57	60		184	139	
June	63	56		182	129	
July	63	57		138	143	
August	70	67	184	135	167	
September	69	66	165	100	185	
October	76	60	149	102	169	
November	65	55	223	91	202	
December	49	61	207	109	164	

- b. The longest times (in days) for initial Dexa scans within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date

January	75	147	116	223	122	552
February	53	127	103	389	619	354
March	118	150	112	383	441	396
April	143	237	Covid - no activity	398	493	
May	123	138		331	255	
June	119	162		476	181	
July	95	126		322	266	
August	140	145	222	363	335	
September	94	154	237	292	760	
October	147	119	259	364	710	
November	140	127	331	203	721	
December	85	314	269	229	369	

2.

a. The average wait times (in days) for follow-up Dexa scans within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	997	1076	1233	1829	1602	199
February	957	1068	1171	1378	1841	637
March	999	576	No Activity	1229	1291	254
April	834	1098	Covid - no activity	1269	729	
May	872	1825		1214	102	
June	1009	1079		1136	846	
July	1323	1517		1254	1197	
August	1067	1291	No follow up activity*	1160	No follow up activity*	
September	No Activity	1262		1253		
October	1089	1120		1157		
November	1411	911	1232	1693	1274	
December	967	996	1266	1150	1138	

b. The longest times (in days) for follow-up Dexa scans within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	1104	1085	1838	2204	1867	526
February	1831	1071	1428	1847	1841	2023
March	1145	806	No Activity	1826	1336	295
April	994	1273	Covid - no activity	1540	1824	
May	1022	1825		1470	193	
June	1820	1091		1138	1546	
July	1804	1819		1629	1197	
August	1452	1824	No follow up activity*	1162	No follow up activity*	
September	No activity	1838		1693		
October	1830	1887		1862		
November	1411	1021	2308	1896	1276	
December	1049	1190	1433	1153	1630	

* New patient scanning only, due to staff shortages.

Please note: Follow up scans may be requested as yearly/3 yearly depending as recommended on initial DEXA. Table shows true waits. Initial scans take priority over follow ups during periods of extreme staff shortages.

3.

- a. The average wait times (in days) for result report from initial Dexa scans to be available to the clinician within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	1	4	2	9	7	7
February	0	5	4	1	3	10
March	2	1	4	2	5	5
April	22	3	Covid - no activity	3	5	
May	6	2		3	2	
June	2	2		2	5	
July	16	2		7	6	
August	3	6	0	3	3	
September	1	1	2	1	7	
October	1	1	2	3	8	
November	1	1	10	1	5	
December	2	1	2	3	3	

- b. The longest times (in days) for result report from initial Dexa scans to be available to the clinician within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	3	15	14	19	23	15
February	0	21	9	7	16	14
March	3	2	8	5	12	18
April	29	9	Covid - no activity	11	18	
May	14	8		9	16	
June	8	6		15	15	
July	13	21		22	23	
August	21	29	0	12	9	
September	21	8	13	11	20	
October	8	8	6	12	46	
November	2	8	90	6	18	
December	8	2	9	15	15	

Please note: NHS Borders can only report on the time from scan to when the report is available to clinicians. How quickly the clinician relays the results to patients is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

4.

- a. The average wait times (in days) for result reports from follow-up Dexa scans to be available to the clinician within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	2	0	0	8	1	1
February	0	0	0	1	2	1
March	2	0	No activity	2	1	6
April	4	3	Covid - no activity	1	5	
May	0	1		2	1	
June	1	No follow up activity*		2	2	
July	0	6		0	2	
August	5	1	No follow up activity*	5	No follow up activity*	
September	No activity	0		1		
October	2	0		3		
November	1	1	2	2	1	
December	0	0	5	3	3	

- b. The longest times (in days) for result reports from follow-up Dexa scans to be available to the clinician within NHS Borders are:

Number of Days						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date
January	3	0	0	8	2	2
February	2	1	0	1	2	1
March	6	1	No activity	3	1	15
April	8	7	Covid - no activity	7	9	
May	1	1		3	1	
June	2	No follow up activity*		6	2	
July	1	7		2	2	
August	8	1	No follow up activity*	9	No follow up activity*	
September	No activity	0		2		
October	8	1		9		
November	1	6	4	2	3	
December	0	1	8	9	9	

* New patient scanning only, due to staff shortages.

Please note: NHS Borders can only report on the time from scan to when the report is available to clinicians. How quickly the clinician relays the results to patients is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

5. NHS Borders currently has no vacancies for Radiographers as 5 have recently been recruited after a period of staff shortages.

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 **198-23** 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.