

## Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

<b>DATE RECEIVED</b>	<b>24/01/2022</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Orthopaedics Waiting List</b>		
<b>PASSED TO</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>DATE PASSED</b>	<b>25/01/2022</b>	<b>RESPOND BY</b>	<b>14/02/2022</b>
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>FoI NUMBER</b>	<b>2022-027</b>		

Question/s to be Answered

Can you provide me with information relating to waiting lists for orthopaedic surgery?

How many patients in your area are waiting for hip or knee replacement surgery?

<b>Joint</b>	<b>Total Waiting</b>	<b>Average Weeks Wait</b>
Hip	44	15.1
Knee	35	13.9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>14.6</b>

What is the average length of waiting time at the moment compared with the timescales pre-Covid

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS Shetland patients who were considered potential candidates for hip or knee replacement were referred to and managed by the Orthopaedic services in NHS Grampian and Golden Jubilee National Hospital.

Therefore we are unable to provide meaningful comparison of the above data as technically will be zero. This is due to NHS Scotland waiting times being calculated on the basis of the Board providing treatment holds the list rather than the Board the individual is ordinary resident in.

The reason there is currently an Orthopaedic elective waiting list for Gilbert Bain Hospital is NHS Shetland received funding to repatriate patients waiting in the aforementioned services to be seen in a temporary mobile operating theatre by agency staff. This service will be in Lerwick for the first 3 months of 2022 which subject to patients being medically fit for treatment should hopefully result in vast majority of treatment.

Shetland residents requiring Orthopaedic Treatment will have and will be in the future included within the waiting list activity information that NHS Grampian and Golden Jubilee National Hospital provide in response to your FOI.

How long will it take to clear the backlog even without any further patients being added?

Section 17 (46) Information not held – see extract below

Given the average numbers who are added to the lists each month, what is the realistic projection of waiting times for patients who are not deemed emergency cases?

Section 17 (46) Information not held – see extract below

## **Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

The following is an extract from the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 17 - 'Information Not Held' (attached):

46. Public authorities are not required to create information in order to answer a request. There's a distinction between creating new information, and compiling information. Where a request can be answered by compiling information from readily-available resources held by the public authority, this is not the same as creating new information. However, if collation of the information would require skill and complex judgement, the information is not held. (See Appendix 1: Resources for details of cases which consider this point.)