

## Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

<b>DATE RECEIVED</b>	<b>11/02/2022</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Musculoskeletal Services</b>		
<b>PASSED TO</b>	<b>Physiotherapy Information Finance</b>	<b>DATE PASSED</b>	<b>14/02/2022</b>	<b>RESPOND BY</b>	<b>04/03/2022</b>
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>FoI NUMBER</b>	<b>2022-067</b>		

Question/s to be Answered

I am writing to request information regarding services that you provide for musculoskeletal conditions, and specifically low back pain. I would appreciate your help with the following questions. The questions are all with regards to outpatient and/or community physiotherapy services:

We do not have lower back pain specific clinics/services in MSK Physio. As such all of the following are answered for general Physio clinics for waiting time standard 080 (MSK).

1. What is the current average waiting time for a musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointment for a new referral or self-referral for non-specific lower back pain? (if you are not able to answer this specifically for low back pain please provide the figure for musculoskeletal physiotherapy more generally)

The average (mean) MSK Physio ongoing waiting time for NHS Shetland as of 27/02/2022 was 22 days.

2. How has the waiting time for musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointments for lower back pain changed over the historical time period for which you have data? If possible, an annual figure for each of the last 5-10 years would be most helpful. (Again, please answer for general musculoskeletal physiotherapy services if you do not hold specific data for back pain).

The table below provides a summary of total new MSK referrals to Physiotherapy where eventual outcome of referral was a patient attendance (in person or virtual) and associated average (mean) waiting time in days between 2017 and 2021:

Year	New Patient Referrals Attended	Average Wait (days)
2017	1487	39
2018	1669	20
2019	1809	18
2020	669	23
2021	892	81
Total	6526	32

General MSK services – information available at AHP waiting time publication:  
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3. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services for lower back pain?

There were 48 new referrals for MSK Physio in NHS Shetland as of 27/02/2022.

4. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services across all musculoskeletal conditions?

There were 48 new referrals for MSK Physio in NHS Shetland as of 27/02/2022.

5. Does your musculoskeletal physiotherapy service(s) accept self-referrals from patients for back pain (as opposed to requiring a GP or primary care referral)?

Yes.

6. What percentage of general practice appointments within your region are for back pain? (or musculoskeletal conditions more broadly if this is the only data level held)

Information not held.

7. What is the average healthcare spend per patient in your region for non-specific low back pain?

We don't routinely collect such costs. The best we can do is the cost per case for community appointments is £123.84 and for hospital appointments £111.70. Lower back pain may involve multiple appointments so not sure how best to estimate cost per patient?

8. How does the average healthcare spend per patient for non-specific low back pain break down across different services and costs?

See answer to question 7.

9. Do you currently commission NHS musculoskeletal physiotherapy services from any private providers? If yes, what proportion of your overall MSK physiotherapy spend is with private providers?

No.