

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004

Date received	12/10/2022	Subject	Waiting List Deaths	
Date passed	12/10/2022	Respond by	02/11/2022	
Passed to	Information Services		FOI number	2022-424
Category of information requested	H&SC Delivery - Patient / Clinical Management			

Question/s to be answered

I am looking for information regarding the number of patients who have died whilst on an NHS waiting list in your health board. Please provide the following information:

NB: The date of removal from list is used in conjunction with the removal reason of Deceased. Actual date of death might not be same as date removed from list.

1. The total number of patients who have died whilst waiting on a waiting list for the last five years to present (date of request), broken down by year.

Year	Deaths
2017	4
2018	22
2019	10
2020	20
2021	22
2022	20
Total	98

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2. A breakdown, by number of weeks, of how long the deceased patient had been on a waiting list. If possible, also include the date they were, at the point just before death, expected or predicted to be seen, treated or operated on.

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	19	21	24	25	26	27	32	35	38	39	40	51	65	68	83	84	Total
2017	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2018	0	1	5	4	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	22
2019	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2020	0	3	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20
2021	0	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	22
2022	1	2	5	1	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Total	2	9	14	11	3	5	8	4	3	3	3	2	4	2	5	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	98										

“If possible, also include the date they were, at the point just before death, expected or predicted to be seen, treated or operated on” –

In accordance with FOISA s 16(1), NHS Shetland confirms that it holds the information requested but that it is exempt from disclosure under FOISA s 38(1)(a) as due to small population, patients may be identifiable.

The number of patients who have died whilst on a waiting list for the last five years to present (date of request) , broken down by type by waiting list –

- a. diagnostics;
- b. outpatients;
- c. Inpatients.

Year	Diagnostic	Inpatient	Outpatient	Total
2017	0	0	4	4
2018	2	3	17	22
2019	0	3	7	10
2020	2	5	13	20
2021	0	8	14	22
2022	2	5	13	20
Total	6	24	68	98

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3. The number of patients who have died whilst on a waiting list for the last five years to present (date of request), broken down by type by speciality.

Specialty	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
General Medicine	2	5	0	3	4	4	18
General Surgery	2	8	5	8	7	6	36
GP Other than Obstetrics	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ophthalmology	0	4	3	5	9	8	29
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Orthodontics	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pain Management	0	1	0	3	1	0	5
Renal Medicine	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rheumatology	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	4	22	10	20	22	20	98