

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

<b>Date received</b>	15/11/2022	<b>Subject</b>	Colposcopy Waiting Times	
<b>Date passed</b>	15/11/2022	<b>Respond by</b>	06/12/2022	
<b>Passed to</b>	Information Services		<b>FOI number</b>	2022-505
<b>Category of information requested</b>	H&SC Delivery - Assessment / Diagnosis / Treatment H&SC Delivery - Patient / Clinical Management			

**Question/s to be answered**

1. The average (mode) waiting time between referral following an abnormal cervical smear test and attending a colposcopy appointment.

See table below

2. The median waiting time between referral following an abnormal cervical smear test and attending a colposcopy appointment.

See table below

3. The range in waiting time between referral following an abnormal cervical smear test and attending a colposcopy appointment.

See table below

4. The number of patients who left a waiting list for a colposcopy following an abnormal cervical smear test to access private healthcare for the procedure.

In accordance with FOISA s 17(1), NHS Shetland confirms that it does not hold the information requested. This is because we do not record when patients choose to leave the NHS waiting list in order to access private healthcare. We record merely that "Patient no longer wishes treatment", but this will include other reasons too.

Please provide data for each month between January 2017 and November 2022.

With regards to pre November 2019 data in accordance with FOISA s 17(1), NHS Shetland confirms that it does not hold the information requested. This is because NHS Shetland did not provide a colposcopy service prior to November 2019. NHS Shetland patients who required colposcopy before November 2019 would have received their treatment in NHS Grampian. An FOI request to NHS Grampian can be submitted at the following email address: [gram.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.foi@nhs.scot)

Please note:

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- The patients included in the data are all patients who have had a colposcopy, not necessarily just patients who have had an abnormal cervical smear.
- Given the size of Shetland and the number of appointments in question, the median and mode in the context of monthly summaries are not informative/cannot be calculated we have however provided the monthly average (mean). We have also provided the aggregated annual median and mode figures.
- The averages (and medians and modes) are waiting times adjusted according to Scottish Government instructions as laid out in the Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011.

	<b>No of Patients</b>	<b>Average Wait</b>	<b>Range</b>
2019-11	3	21	14
2019-12	1	30	0
2020-01	1	56	0
2020-02	5	18	39
2020-03	3	27	21
2020-05	4	85	17
2020-06	3	31	34
2020-07	3	28	12
2020-08	5	25	14
2020-09	3	19	14
2020-10	20	15	22
2020-12	12	33	52
2021-01	5	20	9
2021-03	13	30	46
2021-04	11	16	31
2021-06	19	37	117
2021-08	2	75	22
2021-09	10	24	58
2021-11	4	33	54
2021-12	7	17	21
2022-02	11	28	56
2022-03	4	15	27
2022-05	8	13	28
2022-08	13	34	63
2022-10	5	43	31
2022-11	10	14	31

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Months “missing” a table entry are months in which no appointments took place.

For November and December 2019, the median waiting time was 25 days, but there is insufficient data to calculate a mode.

For the whole of 2020, the waiting times mode was 14 days and the median 21 days

For the whole of 2021, the waiting times mode was 14 days and the median 23 days

For January – November 2022, the waiting time mode was 21 days and the median 23 days