

[REDACTED]

Date 19 June 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3351
Our Ref FOI-2026-3351

Enquiries to [REDACTED]
Email psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear Nairne,

Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3351

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 24 April 2026 and subsequent clarification of 29 May 2026 requesting the following information:

This request follows a recent Freedom of Information response from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, which advised that it does not hold comparative data on breaches of the recommended three-year breast screening interval at Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) level, nor national comparative data across NHS boards. NHSGGC advised that such information may be held by National Services Scotland.

The constituent concern relates to delays beyond the recommended 36-month breast screening interval.

I would therefore be grateful if you could confirm whether National Services Scotland holds the following information, and provide it where available:

- 1. Data on women waiting beyond the recommended three-year breast screening interval, broken down by:**
 - NHS Board; and
 - within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, by HSCP area, including Inverclyde.
- 2. For any data held at Board or HSCP level:**
 - the number of women waiting beyond 36 months; and
 - the longest waits beyond the recommended interval.
- 3. Any available trend data showing changes over time in the number of women waiting beyond 36 months, either nationally or by NHS Board, for example over the past 12–24 months.**
- 4. Confirmation of how breaches of the three-year screening interval are monitored and reported at national level.**

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

If National Services Scotland does not hold HSCP-level data for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether such data is collected within the national screening system, and which organisation is responsible for holding it.

We then received your clarification in relation to Questions 1 and 3 which is as follows:

I can confirm that for Question 1, the time period for which we are requesting data is the **most recent 24-month period for which information is held.**

For clarity, this should include:

- the number of women waiting beyond the recommended three-year breast screening interval; and
- any breakdowns available within that period, including by NHS Board and HSCP area where held.

We would also be grateful if any trend data provided in response to Question 3 could cover the **same 24-month period**, where available, in order to allow meaningful comparison.

It is important to note that from 1 April 2026, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) joined to form Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland), enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. More information regarding PSD Scotland can be found at the following URL:

[Public Services Delivery Scotland \(PSD Scotland\)](#)

Disclaimer: The information provided within this FOISA response is for management purposes only and is not published data. There are some data quality issues within the programme that are currently being investigated and therefore any data released as part of this FOI may be subject to change.

- 1. Data on women waiting beyond the recommended three-year breast screening interval, broken down by:**
 - **NHS Board; and**
 - **within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, by HSCP area, including Inverclyde.**

The time period for which we are requesting data is the most recent 24-month period for which information is held.

For clarity, this should include:

- **the number of women waiting beyond the recommended three-year breast screening interval; and**
- **any breakdowns available within that period, including by NHS Board and HSCP area where held.**

The management data provided is reviewed against the [Healthcare Improvement Scotland Breast Screening Standards](#) with reference to Standard 3.2, i.e.

NHS boards ensure that all eligible women are invited for screening at 36-month intervals following their first invitation, in line with the NHS Breast Screening Programme consolidated standards:

- acceptable: ≥90%, and
- achievable: 100%.

In 2025-26, only the South West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre meets the acceptable standard with 95.5% of clients contacted within 36 months of their previous breast screening contact.

Table 53 to 70 – BSC Centre – Age at start of Cycle 53 to 70 years of age					
Centre	Total No of Clients	Screened up to 36mths	% Screened up to 36mths	Screened from >37mths	% Screened from >37mths
East of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	13568	6095	44.9%	7473	55.1%
North East of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	19797	15415	77.9%	4382	22.1%
North of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	12076	2215	18.3%	9861	81.7%
South East of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	45382	15921	35.1%	29461	64.9%
South West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	20435	19507	95.5%	928	4.5%
West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	70456	11198	15.9%	59258	84.1%

- 2. For any data held at Board or HSCP level:**
- **the number of women waiting beyond 36 months; and**
 - **the longest waits beyond the recommended interval.**

Under the [FOISA Section 17 exemption for “Information not held”](#) PSD Scotland does not hold the information requested as this relates specifically to data held at Health Board or Health & Social Care Partnership level.

In order to obtain the information that you have requested we suggest that you contact each of the Health Boards listed below directly, as under the terms of FOISA we are unable to transfer this request on your behalf.

North of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	NHSH.HighlandBreastScreening@nhs.scot
North-East Scotland Breast Screening Centre	gram.breastscreening@nhs.scot
West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	ggc.wosbs@nhs.scot
South-West Scotland Breast Screening Centre	aa-uhb.breastscreening@aapct.scot.nhs.uk
East Scotland Breast Screening Centre	tay.breastservices@nhs.scot
South-East Scotland Breast Screening Centre	SES.BreastScreening@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

- 3. Any available trend data showing changes over time in the number of women waiting beyond 36 months, either nationally or by NHS Board, for example over the past 12–24 months.**

For clarity, this should include:

- the number of women waiting beyond the recommended three-year breast screening interval; and
- any breakdowns available within that period, including by NHS Board and HSCP area where held.

The below tables provide the number and % of clients contacted within 36months of their previous contact.

2024-25: 2 screening centres East and SW achieved the acceptable standard.

Table 53 to 70 – BSC Centre – Age at start of Cycle 53 to 70 years of age					
Centre	Total No of Clients	Screened up to 36mths	% Screened up to 36mths	Screened from >37mths	% Screened from >37mths
East of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	15600	14507	93%	1093	7%
<u>North East</u> of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	20121	15534	77.2%	4587	22.8%
North of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	10367	2395	23.1%	7972	76.9%
<u>South East</u> of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	55293	18122	32.8%	37171	67.2%
<u>South West</u> of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	22989	21246	92.4%	1743	7.6%
West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre	65957	25742	39%	40215	61%

For the 2025-26 data please refer to the table provided for question 1.

4. Confirmation of how breaches of the three-year screening interval are monitored and reported at national level.

If National Services Scotland does not hold HSCP-level data for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether such data is collected within the national screening system, and which organisation is responsible for holding it.

PSD Scotland (previously NSS) commissions the six breast screening services and monitors performance quarterly through the commissioning cycle. Where there may be concerns around quality or performance nationally or regionally National Services Division (NSD) work closely with the services, Screening Oversight and Assurance Scotland and the Breast Screening Programme Board to explore and agree action plans to address these concerns.

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Corporate Governance using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

