



Date 14 July 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3395
Our Ref FOI-2026-3395

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

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3395

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 19 June 2026 and subsequent clarification of 29 June 2026 requesting the following information:

1. **The average length of time waited for a breast screening appointment for people aged between 50-70 in Scotland.**
2. **Point (1), broken down by breast screening centre, healthboard and local authority.**
3. **The length of time waited for a breast screening appointment for people aged between 50-70 in Scotland, broken down by the length of time waited.**
4. **Point (3) broken down by breast screening centre, healthboard and local authority.**
5. **The number of people who receive their first screening at the following ages: 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and Other**
6. **Point (5), broken down by breast screening centre, healthboard and local authority.**

We then received your clarification, which is as follows:

I would like to see round length data. I would like this data to cover from 2016 until the most recent dataset.

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. The average length of time waited for a breast screening appointment for people aged between 50-70 in Scotland.

As advised, the data reported is screening round length based on previous to current contact (not the date of the next available screening appointment) for clients aged 53 to 70, and is not average time waited.

Please find attached Appendix 1 – Breast Screening data report, which covers the scope of the information requested.

Please note the following caveats:

- The report does not include first time invites for those aged 50 to 53.
- Data is not available for the period from 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2018.
- Data is provided for the financial years 2018 to 2026 only, broken down by screening centre.

Please note that the Scottish Breast Screening Programme was paused by Scottish Government in March 2020, with the Programme re-starting on a phased approach from July 2020. The capacity in the Programme was reduced to support prevention measures throughout the covid waves. As such, the screening interval was extended and centres worked to increase capacity and reduce delays for the population.

The Breast Modernisation report [Breast screening modernisation programme: final report - gov.scot](#) outlines challenges in the breast screening programme and proposes steps for a more efficient, sustainable, equitable, and participant-focused service.

The management data report attached is reviewed against the [Healthcare Improvement Scotland Breast Screening Standards](#) with reference to Standard 3.2;

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%
- achievable: 100%

2. Point (1), broken down by breast screening centre, healthboard and local authority.

Please see attached Appendix 1, which shows data broken down by Screening Centre. Under the [FOISA Section 17 exemption for "Information not held"](#) an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. Please note that the data held by Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland), formerly National Services Scotland (NSS) is not available by NHS board or local authority as this level of detail is not recorded.

3. The length of time waited for a breast screening appointment for people aged between 50-70 in Scotland, broken down by the length of time waited.

Please see attached Appendix 1. Please note that the data is broken down by screening centre and against the 36-month screening interval.

Please note the following caveats:

- The report does not include first time invites for those aged 50 to 53.
- Data is not available for the period from 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2018.
- Data is provided for the financial years 2018 to 2026 only, broken down by screening centre.

4. Point (3) broken down by breast screening centre, healthboard and local authority.

Please see attached Appendix 1, which shows data broken down by Screening Centre. Under the [FOISA Section 17 exemption for "Information not held"](#) an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. Please note that the data held by PSD Scotland is not available by NHS board or local authority as this level of detail is not recorded.

5. The number of people who receive their first screening at the following ages: 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and Other.

Under the [FOISA Section 17 exemption for "Information not held"](#) an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. PSD Scotland does not hold information relating to the number of people who received their first screening at the above listed ages.

6. Point (5), broken down by breast screening centre, health board and local authority.

Under the [FOISA Section 17 exemption for "Information not held"](#) an organisation does not have to provide that information if it does not hold it. PSD Scotland does not hold information relating to the number of people who received their first screening at the above listed ages, broken down by screening centre, Health Board or Local Authority.

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,

