

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act Reference 2023.343
Released 24 February 2023

Thank you for your email received 10 February 2023 requesting information regarding elective surgery waiting times.

Please find detailed below a summary of your request, which is a refined request following information released to you under reference 2023.303.

Summary of your original request:

PART 4

Please provide the longest period of time that a patient spent on an elective waiting list in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in each of the following priority categories.

- a) Priority 1 (operation needed within 72 hours)**
- b) Priority 2 (surgery which can be deferred for up to four weeks)**
- c) Priority 3 (surgery which can be delayed for up to three months)**
- d) Priority 4 (surgery which can be delayed for more than three months)**
- e) Priority 5 (patients who have requested to remain on the waiting list but to defer treatment because of their concerns about Covid-19)**
- f) Priority 6 (Patients who have been offered treatment but have declined to accept for non-Covid reasons, but still wish to remain on the waiting list)**
- g) No priority assigned**

For ease of reference, I have reproduced and updated the podiatric surgery data released to you under question 4 your original request. The service runs purely elective non-urgent surgery at a time convenient to patients. Therefore, the only classification which applies to our waiting times is "g) no priority assigned".

Often patients will ask for an opinion, require various investigations and may try other therapy in the first instance before attending an appointment with the service and referrals are not closed between these pockets of activity:

Year	Ref-first Average	Ref-first Longest	Priority Category
2018	17	203	g) No priority assigned
2019	9	164	g) No priority assigned
2020	19	95	g) No priority assigned
2021	9	104	g) No priority assigned
2022	16	220	g) No priority assigned

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick

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