

Procurement, Commissioning & Facilities  
NHS National Services Scotland  
National Distribution Centre  
2 Swinhill Avenue  
Canderside  
Larkhall  
ML9 2QX



Telephone 01698 794400  
Fax 01698 794401  
[RNID Typetalk; 18001 01698 794400/794410](tel:1800101698794400794410)

Date: 08 July 2022  
Our ref: K: FOI/Ref: 2022-000140  
Direct Line: 0131 275 6807  
Email: [nss.pcf-foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.pcf-foi@nhs.scot)

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Reference: FOI-2022-000140 – Breast Screening appointments and Self-referral system**

I refer to your freedom of information request that we received on 14 June 2022.

I can advise you that we have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information:

**(1) How many of the breast screening appointments that were delayed by covid have since then been completed to date. The date being the day this FOI is submitted, 20th May 2022.**

The Scottish Breast Screening Programme (SBSP) offers eligible women 50-70 breast screening once every 3 years. The SBSP was paused due to covid-19 from March to July 2020 and the pause has delayed the screening invitation date for all eligible women (not only those who were due to be invited during the pause period). In addition, on restart of the programme, there was reduced capacity due to increased infection, prevention and control measures in place and the service has worked to increase capacity through extended days, weekend working and use of additional mobile units. Given the covid pause has delayed all invitations, the total number of appointments allocated from August 2020 to May 2022 are as follows:

4 August 2020 to 31 May 2022: 475,440 women have been allocated an appointment for breast screening across Scotland.

**(2) The documentation that backs up the estimation that self-referral system for women over 70 will return in September.**

SBSP Programme Board meeting minutes of 16 March 2022 are attached as Appendix 1.

I trust you will find the information of assistance and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Head of Information and Cyber Security  
Digital and Security  
NHS National Services Scotland



**Headquarters**

Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, EDINBURGH EH12 9EB

Chairperson Keith Redpath  
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

Headquarters  
Gyle Square  
1 South Gyle Crescent  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9EB

or at the email address [nss.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.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 application form](#).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Davies', written in a cursive style.

Alan Davies  
Business Support Manager