



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



Freedom of Information Request

29th November 2024

Question

- The number of ambulances that have waited outside hospitals so far in 2024 broken down by month and health board area (can you also specify what percentage this is of the ambulance fleet in the main hospital station)
- The average waiting times that those ambulances had to queue outside the hospital (can you please provide this info broken down by month and health board)
- The longest time recorded so far in 2024 where an ambulance has had to wait outside a hospital before they could bring a patient to the emergency department, and can you specify where this took place.

Answer

The Scottish Ambulance Service does not record the time taken to handover a patient from an ambulance on arrival at a hospital. It is for this reason we have applied section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002 as information not held.

The Service does record turnaround times, which is from when an ambulance arrives at hospital to the point of departure. These turnaround times are affected by a wide range of factors, including ambulance staff cleaning vehicles following patient transportation, supporting the ongoing care of the patient and on occasions providing statements to the police.

Please see the attached sheet detailing the conveyances to each key hospital from 01/01/2024 to 31/10/2024 broken down by month. Included are the average turnaround times; these turnaround times **ARE NOT** comparable to the handover times of other UK Ambulance Trusts.

It is not possible to report on ambulance fleet by main hospital stations. The Scottish Ambulance Service is a national service, and ambulance stations are not primarily located at hospitals and therefore conveyance is from numerous stations.

Our local management teams are working closely with Health Boards to ensure that ambulances are released as quickly as possible.