

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 22-096	9 th March 2022
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I am writing to request information regarding services that you provide for musculoskeletal conditions, and specifically low back pain. I would appreciate your help with the following questions. The questions are all with regards to outpatient and/or community physiotherapy services:

- 1. What is the current average waiting time for a musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointment for a new referral or self-referral for non-specific lower back pain? (if you are not able to answer this specifically for low back pain please provide the figure for musculoskeletal physiotherapy more generally)**

- Triaged urgent referrals will be seen within 10 working days.
- Triaged routine referrals will be seen on average around 13 weeks or sooner depending on demand.

The above applies to all musculoskeletal physiotherapy referrals including non-specific low back pain referrals.

- 2. How has the waiting time for musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointments for lower back pain changed over the historical time period for which you have data? If possible, an annual figure for each of the last 5-10 years would be most helpful. (Again, please answer for general musculoskeletal physiotherapy services if you do not hold specific data for back pain).**

Please find overleaf the average waiting times for the past 5 years:

Year	Average number of weeks
April 17 - March 18:	21 weeks
April 18 - March 19:	17 weeks
April 19 - March 20:	13 weeks
April 20 - March 21:	32 weeks
April 21 - March 22:	25 weeks

- 3. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services for lower back pain?**
Currently 971, however this will fluctuate
- 4. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services across all musculoskeletal conditions?**
Currently 4847, however this will fluctuate

- 5. Does your musculoskeletal physiotherapy service(s) accept self-referrals from patients for back pain (as opposed to requiring a GP or primary care referral)?**

Yes

- 6. What percentage of general practice appointments within your region are for back pain? (or musculoskeletal conditions more broadly if this is the only data level held)**

The Health Board does not capture this information.

- 7. What is the average healthcare spend per patient in your region for non-specific low back pain?**

The Health Board does not calculate average health care spend per patient for non specific low back pain.

- 8. How does the average healthcare spend per patient for non-specific low back pain break down across different services and costs? –**

Please refer to Q7.

- 9. Do you currently commission NHS musculoskeletal physiotherapy services from any private providers? If yes, what proportion of your overall MSK physiotherapy spend is with private providers?**

No