

22 September 2025

Cancer Waiting Lists

I would like to know how many patients with a referral for suspected cancer are currently waiting for an appointment. If possible I would like this broken down into the type of cancer.

Total number of patients waiting for an appointment with a suspect cancer referral is 1649.

I would like to know the longest someone has currently been on the waiting list after being referred with a possible cancer diagnosis, and I would like to know the type of cancer they are suspected to have.

Longest Waiter is for dermatology waiting 24 weeks.

For people that have been diagnosed I would like to know the average wait time for treatment to begin. If possible I would like this broken down into a type of cancer. I would like this data for 2021/22, 2022/23, 23/24 and 25 years to date.

Please see table below

| Tumour Site | Date Decision to Treat (DDT) to Treatment (Days, Average) | | | Jan -May 2024 | Jun-Dec 2024 | Jan-Aug 2025 |
|-------------------------------|---|------|------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | | | |
| Acute Leukaemia | 6 | <5 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 11 |
| Brain/Central Tumour | 9 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 9 |
| Breast Cancer | 15 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 16 |
| Childrens Cancer | 5 | <5 | <5 | 5 | Not available on EPIC system | Not available on EPIC system |
| Endocrine | 37 | 24 | 16 | <5 | Not available on EPIC system | Not available on EPIC system |
| Gynae Cancers | 24 | 26 | 25 | 22 | 21 | 18 |
| Haematological Cancers | 7 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 16 |
| Head/Neck Cancer | 17 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 17 |
| Hepatobiliary/Pancreatic | 17 | 16 | 18 | 14 | 21 | 21 |
| Lower Gastrointestinal Cancer | 15 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 13 |

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|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lung Cancer | 14 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 19 | 20 |
| Neuroendocrine | 16 | 24 | 7 | 7 | Not available on EPIC system | Not available on EPIC system |
| Sarcomas | 19 | 19 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 21 |
| Skin Cancers | 5 | 8 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 12 |
| Testicular Cancer | 10 | 10 | 32 | 20 | Not available on EPIC system | Not available on EPIC system |
| Thyroid Cancer | 26 | 26 | 21 | 38 | 26 | 53 |
| Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer | 13 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 16 | 19 |
| Urological Cancer | 22 | 31 | 28 | 29 | 23 | 27 |
| Average All Tumour Sites | 16 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 20 |

For people who have had a cancer diagnosis I would like to know, currently, what is the longest someone has been waiting for treatment and the cancer they have been diagnosed with.

We do not release information on individual patients. This would be considered as Personal Information and would be exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

For the years 2021/22, 2022/23, 23/24 and 25 years to date I would like to know who many patients have passed away while waiting to start treatment for their cancer diagnosis.

This information would require additional time beyond 18 hours to extract. Under Section 18 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, we do not have to spend more than 18 hours on a request and so we are unable to provide this information.