

# Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland

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Mr David Smith  
- Via email

Our Ref: FoI/11/00524

23 May 2011

Dear Mr Smith

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Thank you for your email of 29 April 2011 (19:44) under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for information on the length of hearings held by the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland (the Tribunal).

The Tribunal is not subject to FOISA (not being listed as a Scottish Public Authority in schedule 1 to that Act). Nevertheless the Tribunal is happy to provide information in appropriate circumstances where it is able to do so.

The Tribunal does collect data on when hearings commence and end, although it does not regularly collate and analyse this information.

In response to your enquiry we have analysed data hearings held in April 2011. There were 336 hearings held in April 2011. The average length of hearing before the tribunal panel (which is the time taken for the tribunal panel to hear evidence and submissions) was one hour and seven minutes. The average overall length of hearing (which is the time taken for the tribunal panel to hear evidence and submissions plus the time taken to deliberate and deliver its decision, whether orally or in writing) was two hours and 14 minutes.

I trust this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely

Agnes Ferrie  
Business Support