

Caithness Health Action Team
[request-825156-
53bbdbee@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:53bbdbee@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date: 15 February 2022
Your Ref:
Our Ref: MM/HC FOI 12597
Please quote reference number on all correspondence

Enquiries to: FOI Team
Email: nhsh.foirequestshighland@nhs.scot

Dear Caithness Health Action Team

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Request Ref 12597
Rotational Consultants to Caithness General Hospital**

With reference to your request for information received on 24 January regarding the above, please find below your questions and our response:-

1. We would like to know the number of rotational medical consultants covering Caithness General hospital for 2021?

- How many times for each week of 2021 that they attended Caithness General for face to face clinics?
- How many times for each week of 2021 that they attended near me appointments for Caithness patients?

There are 7 Medical consultants that attend Caithness General on a rotational period. They cover Monday to Thursday each week and are committed to providing at least one Face to Face clinic during each visit while supporting all other activities. Near Me continues to be an option to support Caithness residents and will be used where clinically feasible.

2. We would also like to know the number of rotational surgical consultants covering Caithness General hospital for 2021?

- How many times for each week of 2021 that they attended Caithness General Hospital for face to face clinics?
- How many times for each week that they attended near me appointments for Caithness patients?

Under the surgical specialties, the consultants work for NHS Highland, and not to an individual unit. Surgical demand is met based on both the location of the patients and the availability of clinically appropriate and available space.

Within consultant job plans, there are elements to ensure service can be delivered in our Rural General Hospital sites, such as Caithness General Hospital in order to utilise all available spaces. It is also noteworthy that there have been recent appointments of 2 long term surgical consultants to be based at Caithness General Hospital to preserve surgical activity at the site.

With regards to Near Me, the situation is the same as medical where this will continue to be used where this is a clinically viable option.

- **We would also like to know how many operations were carried out in Caithness General operating theatres for each week of 2021?**

Please see table below detailing theatre activity for Caithness General Hospital.

I hope this response is helpful. If you are unhappy with my response, I am very happy to discuss this with you further. Alternatively you have the right to ask for an internal review by making a formal request in writing to the:-

Freedom of Information Officer
NHS Highland
Assynt House
Beechwood Park
Inverness, IV2 3BW

or by email nhsh.foirequestshighland@nhs.scot

Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within forty working days of receiving this letter.

If you remain dissatisfied following the investigation of your review, then you have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of the date of receiving the review response. Contact details are as follows:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Yours sincerely

Heather Campbell
Freedom of Information Officer

On behalf of
Mirian Morrison
Clinical Governance Development Manager

Theatre Activity: Caithness General Hospital.

WEEK ENDING	NUMBER OF OPERATIONS
10/01/2021	<10
17/01/2021	14
24/01/2021	11
31/01/2021	29
07/02/2021	13
14/02/2021	<10
21/02/2021	<10
28/02/2021	<10
07/03/2021	12
14/03/2021	12
21/03/2021	13
28/03/2021	26
04/04/2021	<10
11/04/2021	11
18/04/2021	17
25/04/2021	17
02/05/2021	<10
09/05/2021	<10
16/05/2021	<10
23/05/2021	16
30/05/2021	16
06/06/2021	18
13/06/2021	12
20/06/2021	20
27/06/2021	29
04/07/2021	10
11/07/2021	<10
18/07/2021	<10
25/07/2021	17
01/08/2021	18
08/08/2021	10

15/08/2021	13
22/08/2021	11
29/08/2021	34
05/09/2021	12
12/09/2021	19
19/09/2021	12
26/09/2021	14
03/10/2021	11
10/10/2021	14
17/10/2021	13
24/10/2021	<10
31/10/2021	28
07/11/2021	17
14/11/2021	34
21/11/2021	16
28/11/2021	17
05/12/2021	19
12/12/2021	20
19/12/2021	21
26/12/2021	<10

****Please note that where operations are less than 10 they will be recorded as <10 to protect patient identifiable information****

Statistical Disclosure:

Statistical Disclosure is used to describe the communication of personally-identifiable information about a data subject, where information is made public through a statistical output such as a graph or table. NHS Highland staff are required to strictly adhere to relevant NSS data confidentiality guidelines and data protection legislation.

In regard to this Information Request, in order to prevent statistical disclosure in table any number below 10 has been replaced with "<10", and totals have not been provided.