

SPAN Benchmarking Report 2024-25 Version History

Version	Date	Comments/Changes
1.0	06/08/2025	1 st Draft
1.1	23/09/2025	Updated all visuals following feedback from initial reports. Late anomaly returns from FV & LAN have also now been included.

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Glossary

Health Board Codes:

A&A	Ayrshire & Arran
D&G	Dumfries & Galloway
FIFE	Fife
FV	Forth Valley
GG&C	Greater Glasgow & Clyde
GRAM	Grampian
HIGH	Highland
LAN	Lanarkshire
LOTH	Lothian
TAY	Tayside

Caveats

It should be noted for the 24/25 benchmarking report, there were no data returns made by NHS Grampian or NHS Tayside.

As a result of this, we have excluded these boards historic data from the report so that comparisons against previous years are not skewed by a larger data pool.

At the time of data collection, NHS Fife was impacted by IT software updates which resulted in some data being unable to be extracted from their relevant databases. This has resulted in there being some gap in their return for 24/25. These have been highlighted where relevant.

Overview

Workload	Total	% Change
Total Histopathology Requests	274K	0.58% ▲
Total Histopathology Specimens	408K	-6.59% ▼
Total Non Cervical Cytology Requests	158K	-0.93% ▼
Total Blocks*	804K	-8.86% ▼
Total HE Slides*	1,058K	-9.16% ▼
Total IHC Slides	376K	11.12% ▲

Current Staff & Change from Last Year



Admin & Clerical	Advanced Practitioner	Anatomical Pathology Technologists	Associate Practitioner	Biomedical Scientist	HCS Assistant	Medical
53.95 WTE	7.32 WTE	48.37 WTE	62.95 WTE	205.08 WTE	73.42 WTE	151 HC
-13.8% ▼	3.83% ▲	0.81% ▲	1.55% ▲	-0.52% ▼	-5.7% ▼	17.97% ▲

Costs

Consumables + Staffing = Total

Per Request
£27.97 + £116.69 = £144.66

Per Specimen
£19.44 + £81.13 = £100.57

Turnaround

7.01% of Histo Requests reported in **3** calendar days -0.79% ▼

24.20% of Histo Requests reported in **7** calendar days -2.35% ▼

82.59% of Breast Core Needle reported in **7** calendar days -4.16% ▼

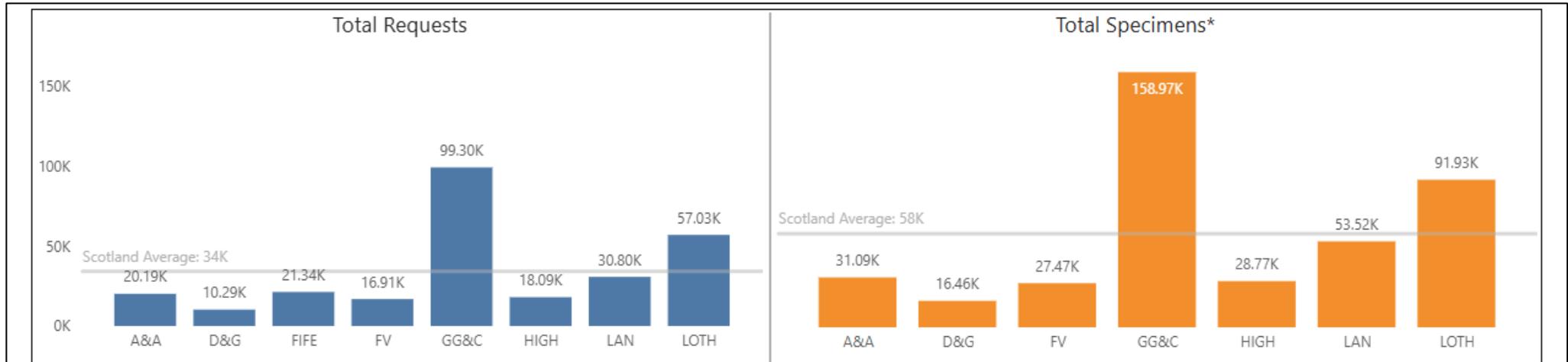
Workload Totals

599.6 Requests per Total WTE 8.31% ▲

821.2 Specimens per Total WTE 0.95% ▲

*NHS Fife have been excluded from these totals, due to system issues preventing data extraction.

Histopathology Specimens & Requests



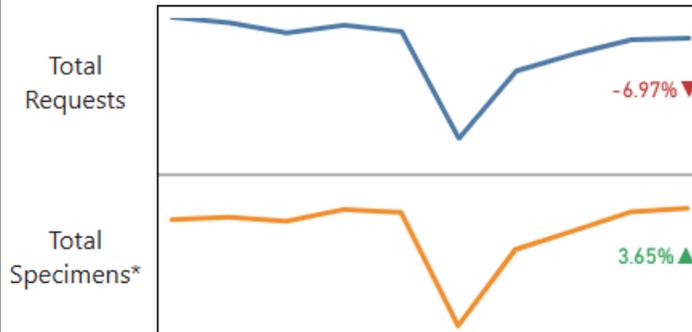
NHS Scotland received **273,941** total histopathology requests in **24/25**.

This is **UP +0.58%** from last year.

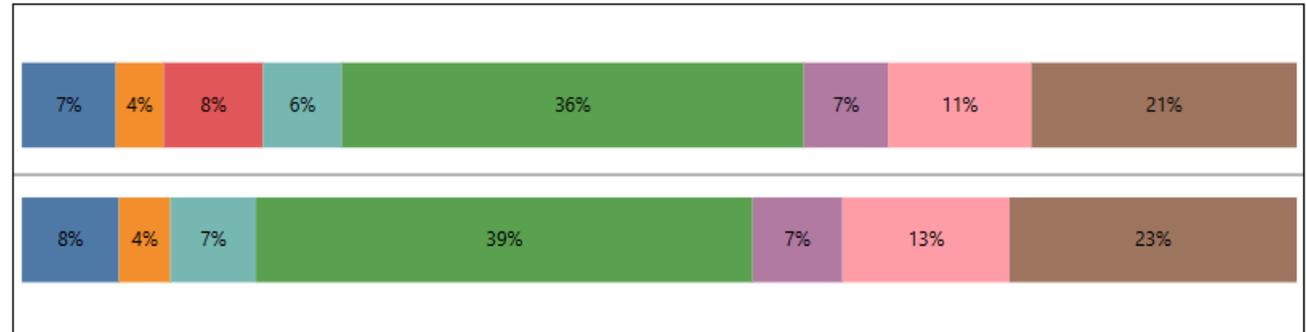
NHS Scotland received **408,197** total histopathology specimens in **24/25**.

This is **UP +1.17%** from last year.

10 year change %



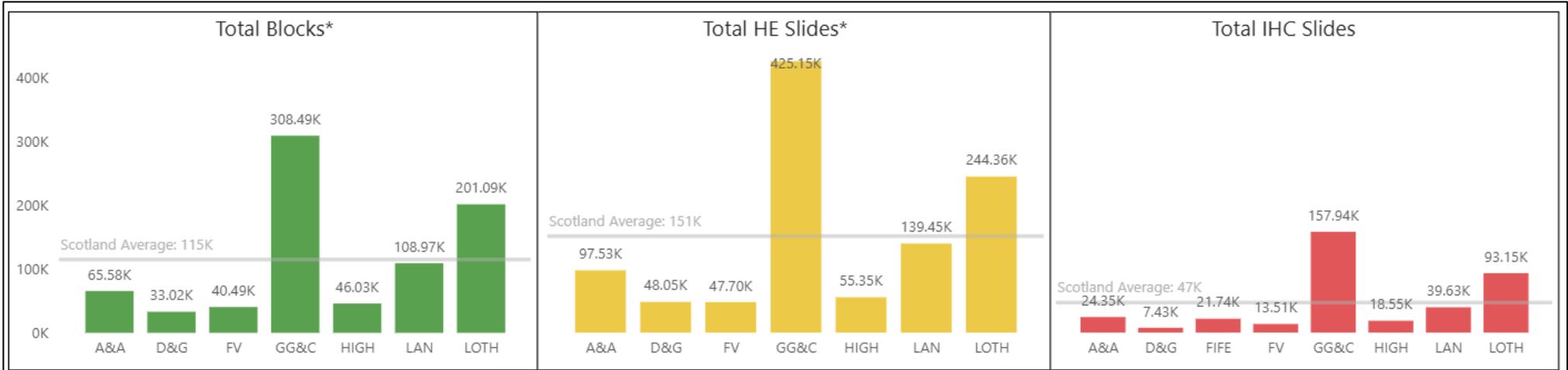
% of Scotland Total



*NHS Fife have been excluded from these totals, due to system issues preventing data extraction.

● A&A ● D&G ● FIFE ● FV ● GG&C ● HIGH ● LAN ● LOTH

Histopathology Blocks & Slides



NHS Scotland received **803,660** total blocks in **24/25**.

This is **DOWN -1.52%** from last year.

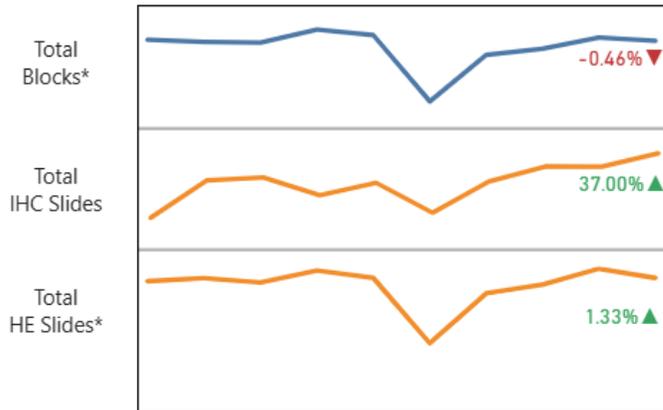
NHS Scotland received **1,057,592** total HE slides in **24/25**.

This is **DOWN -3.66%** from last year.

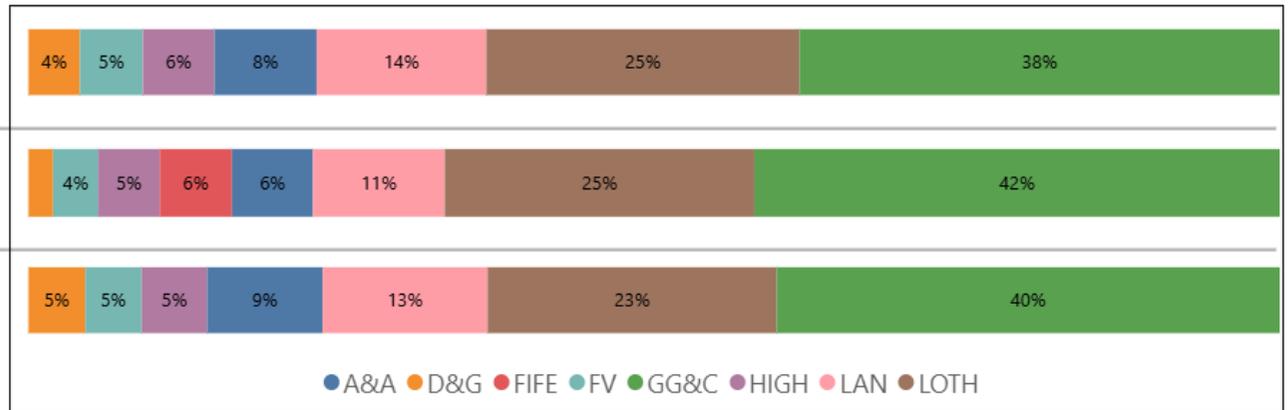
NHS Scotland received **376,282** total IHC slides in **24/25**.

This is **UP +5.92%** from last year.

10 year change %

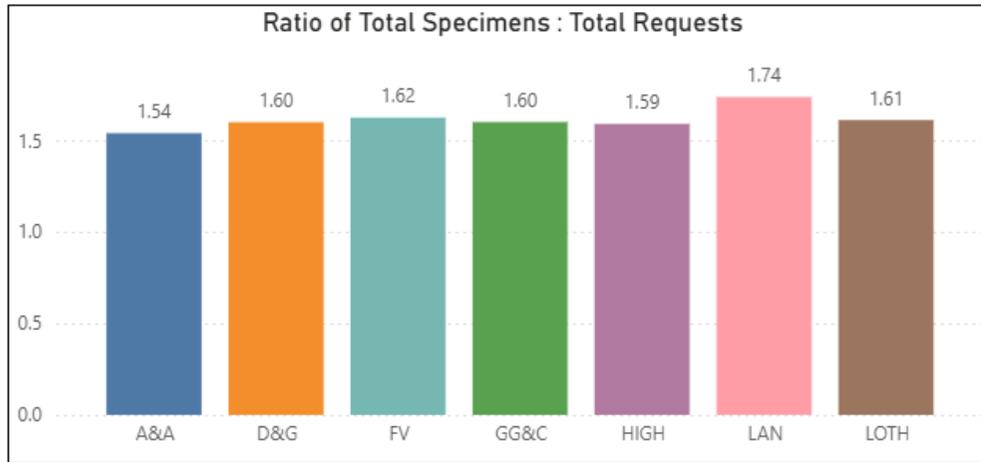


% of Scotland Total

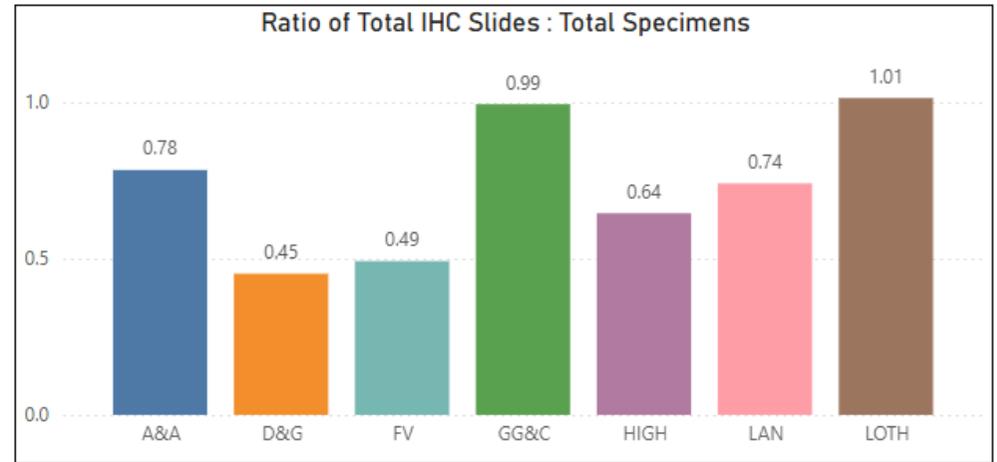


*NHS Fife have been excluded from these totals, due to system issues preventing data extraction.

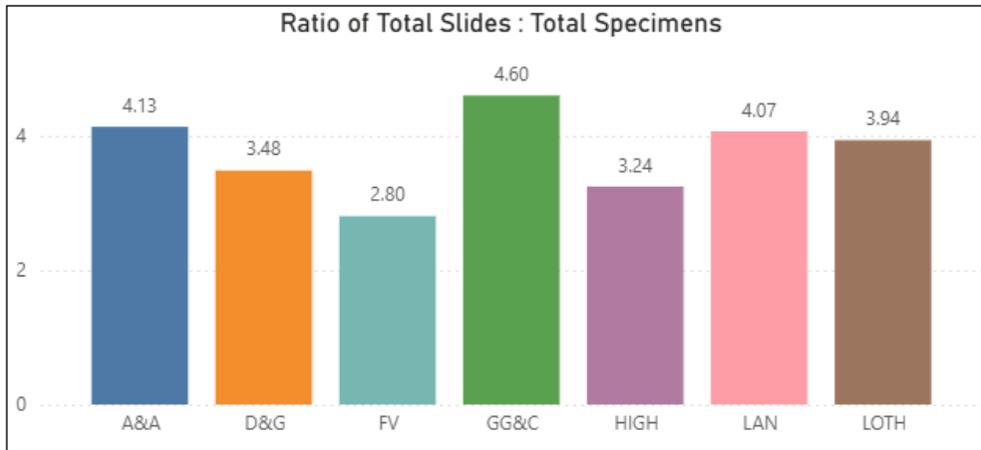
Histopathology Test Ratios



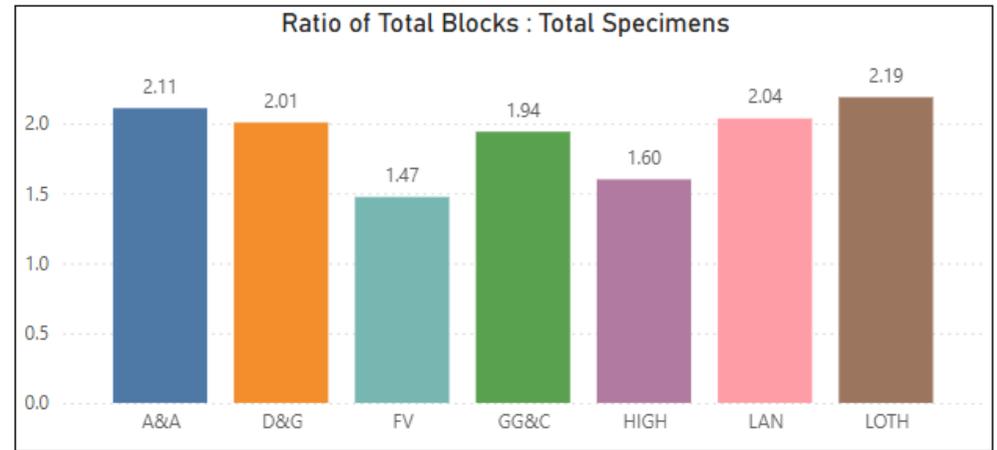
The **Specimens : Requests** ratio for Scotland in 24/25 is **1.62** with a change of **+1.07%** from last year.



The **IHC Slides : Specimens** ratio for Scotland in 24/25 is **0.87** with a change of **+5.09%** from last year.



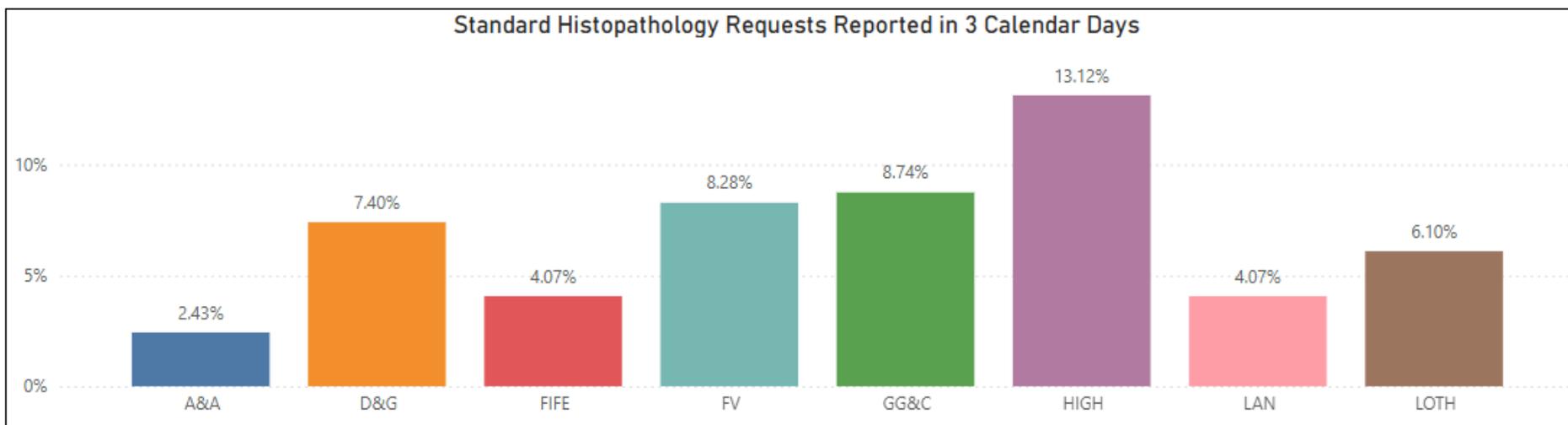
The **Slides : Specimens** ratio for Scotland in 24/25 is **4.08** with a change of **-2.52%** from last year.



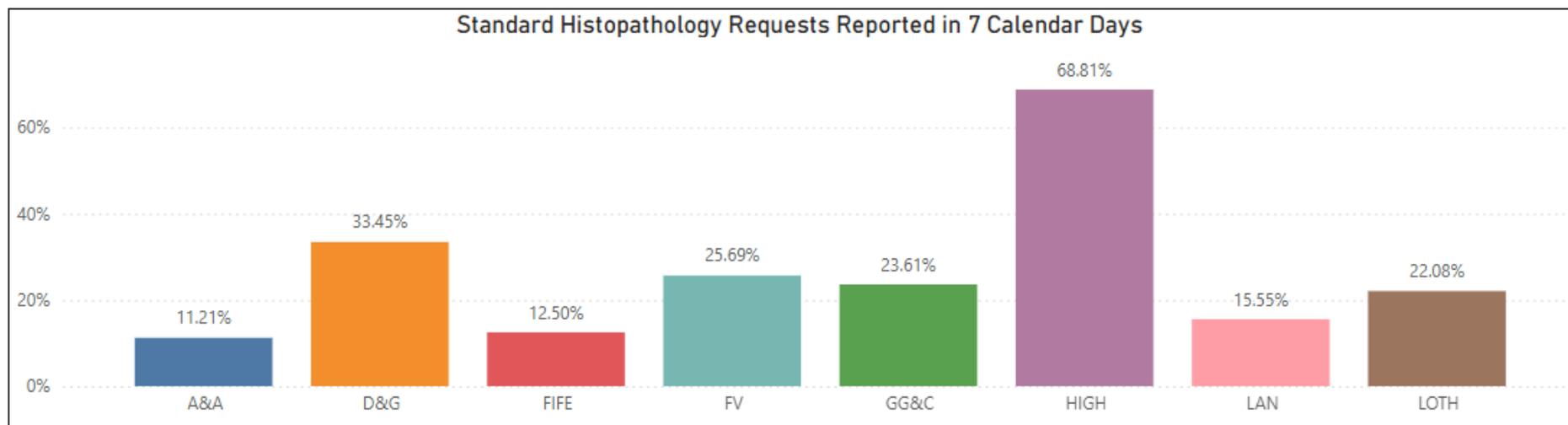
The **Blocks : Specimens** ratio for Scotland in 24/25 is **1.97** with a change of **-2.65%** from last year.

*NHS Fife have been excluded from all visuals on this page, due to system issues preventing data extraction.

Histopathology Requests Turnaround Times

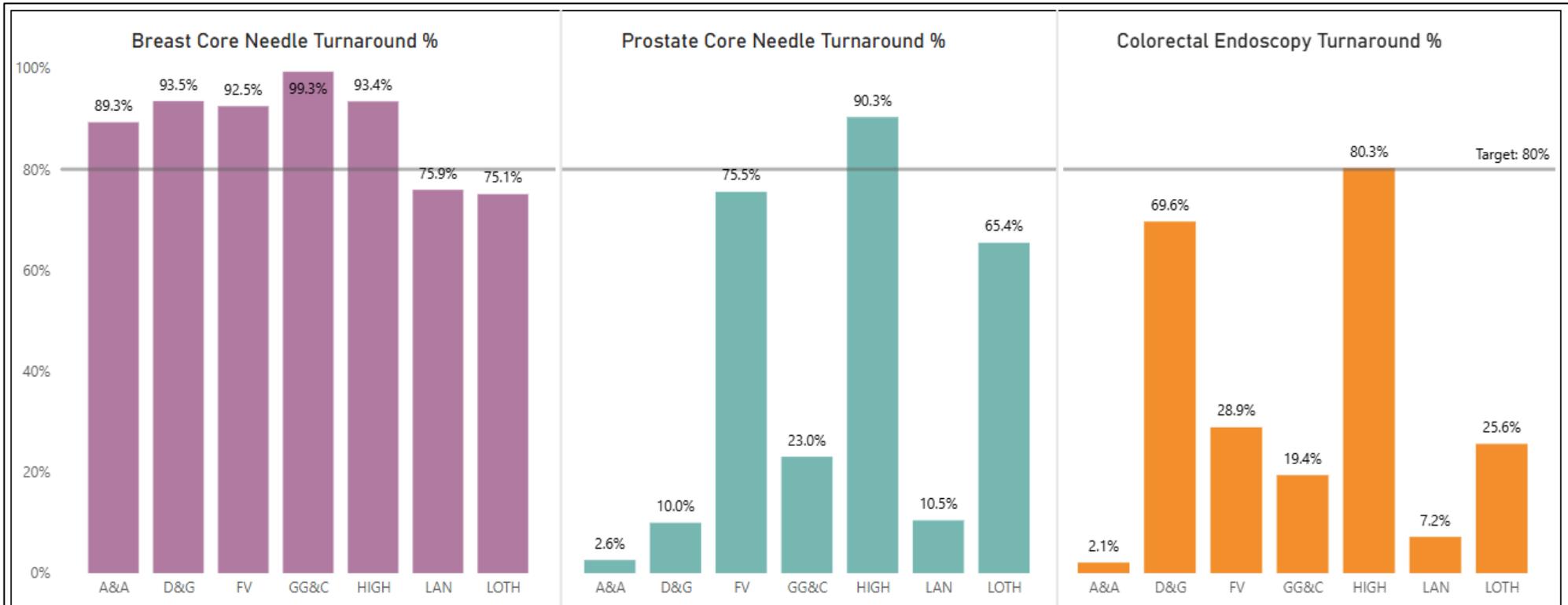


The % Turnaround for Scotland in 24/25 is **7.01%**
with a change of **-0.79%** from last year.



The % Turnaround for Scotland in 24/25 is **24.20%**
with a change of **-2.35%** from last year.

Specimen Specific Turnaround Times



87.07% of NHS Scotland's **Breast Core Needle Biopsies** were reported in 7 calendar days in **24/25**.

This is a change of **-0.11%** from last year.

24.55% of NHS Scotland's **Prostate Core Needle Biopsies** were reported in 7 calendar days in **24/25**.

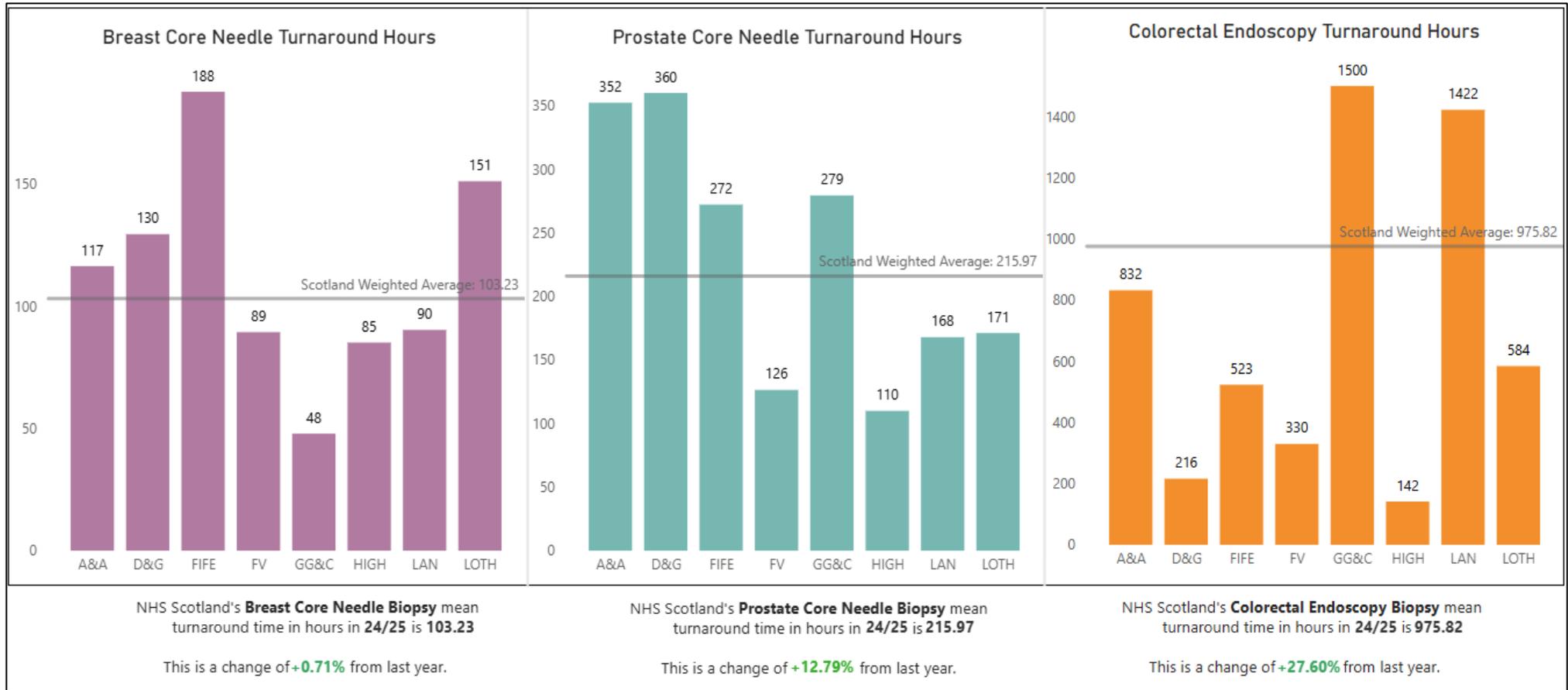
This is a change of **-9.53%** from last year.

22.80% of NHS Scotland's **Colorectal Endoscopy Biopsies** were reported in 7 calendar days in **24/25**. **Target: 80%**

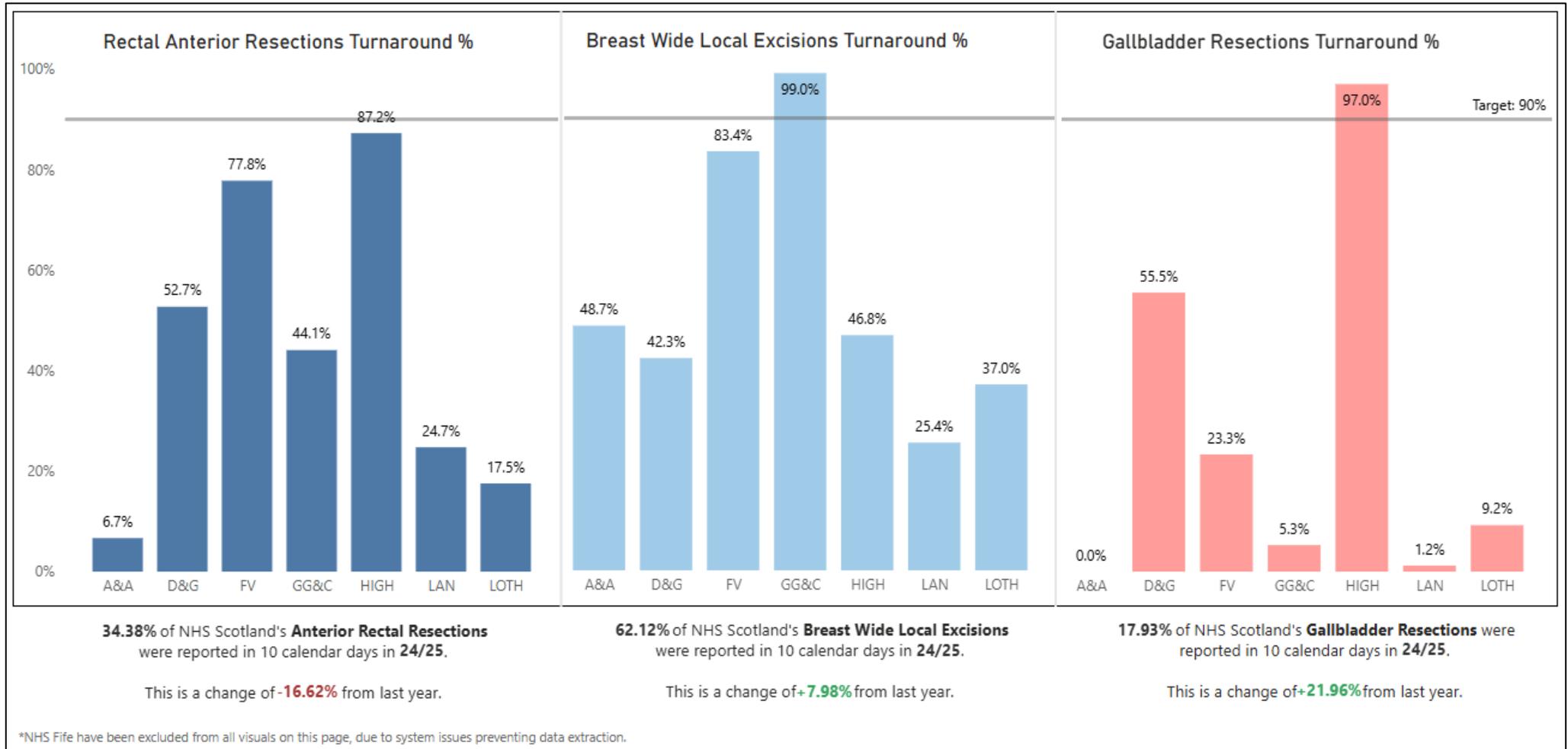
This is a change of **+23.46%** from last year.

*NHS Fife have been excluded from all visuals on this page, due to system issues preventing data extraction.

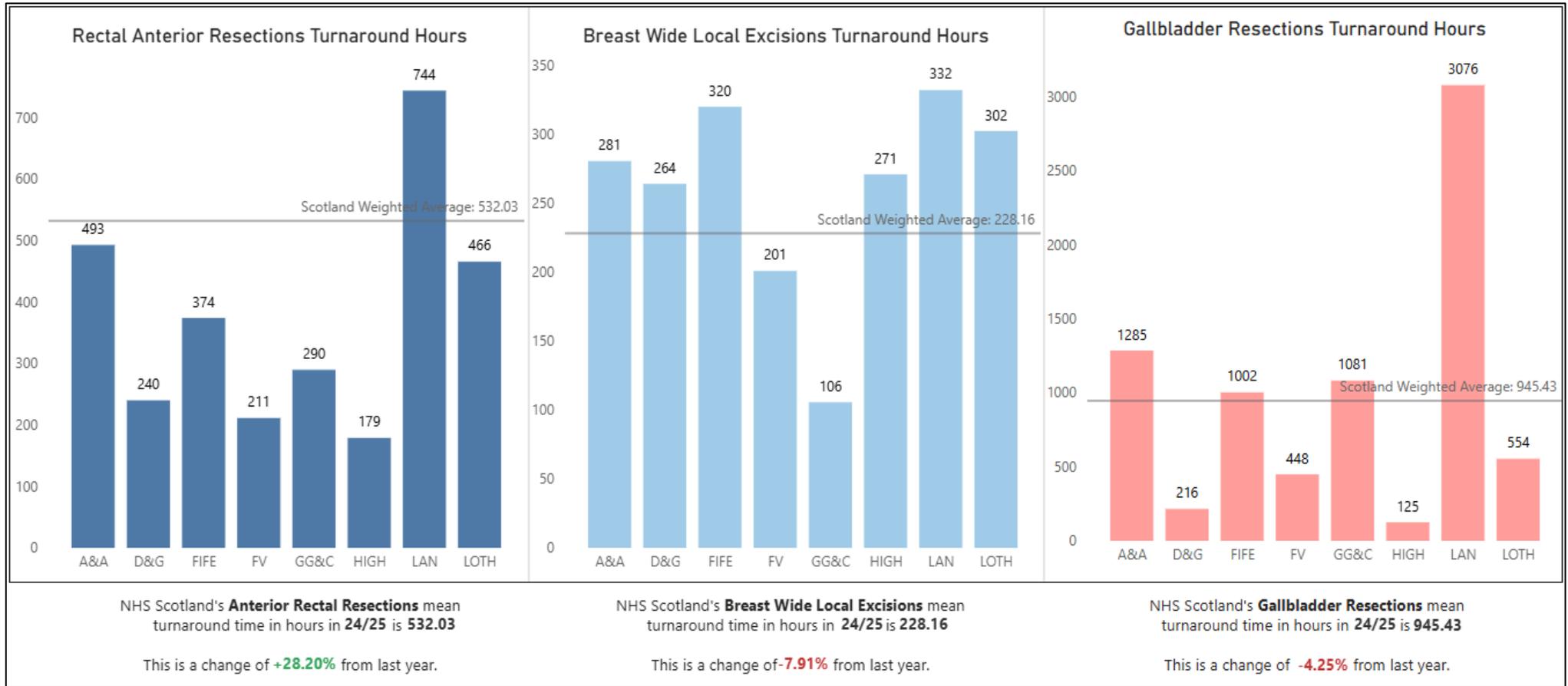
Specimen Specific Turnaround Times



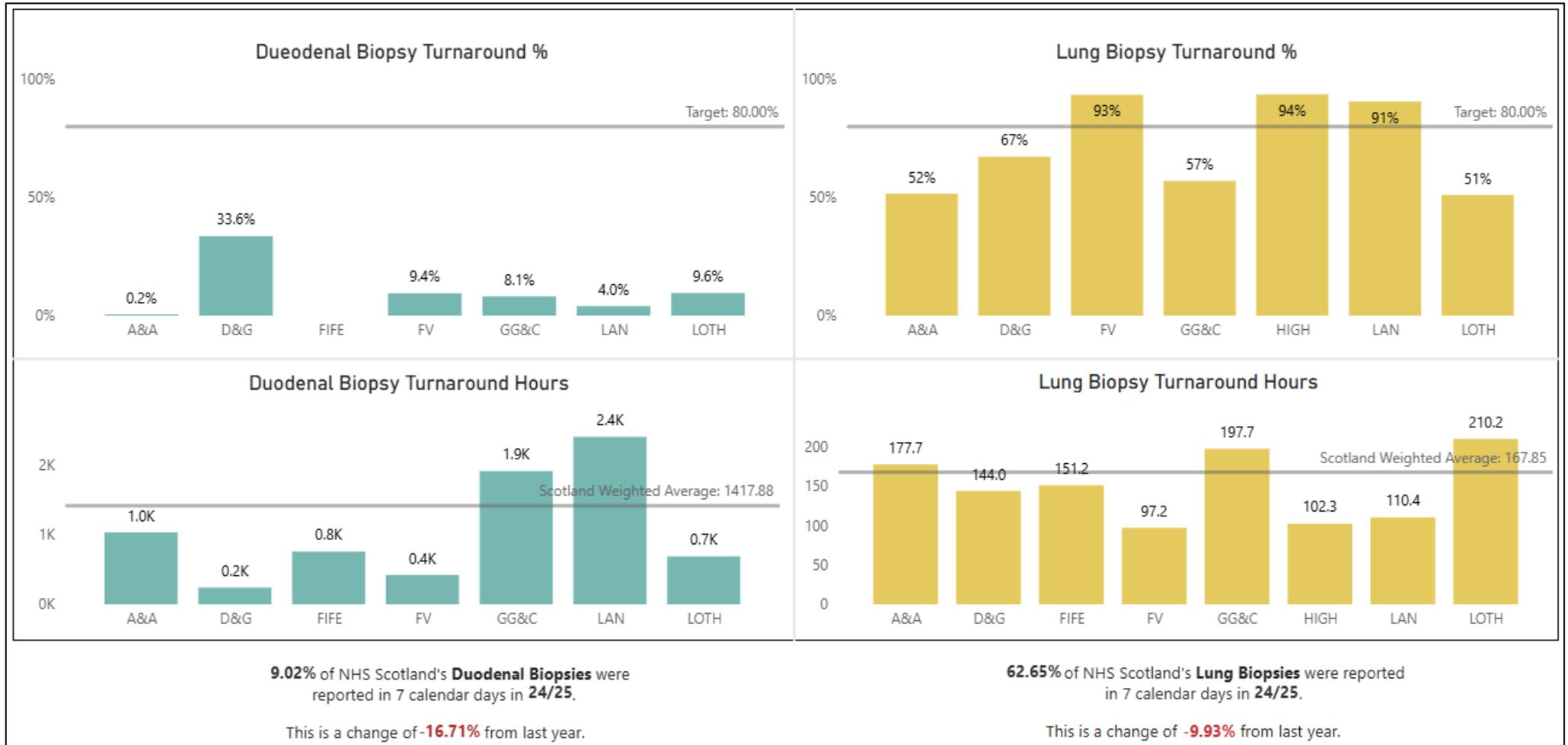
Specimen Specific Turnaround Times



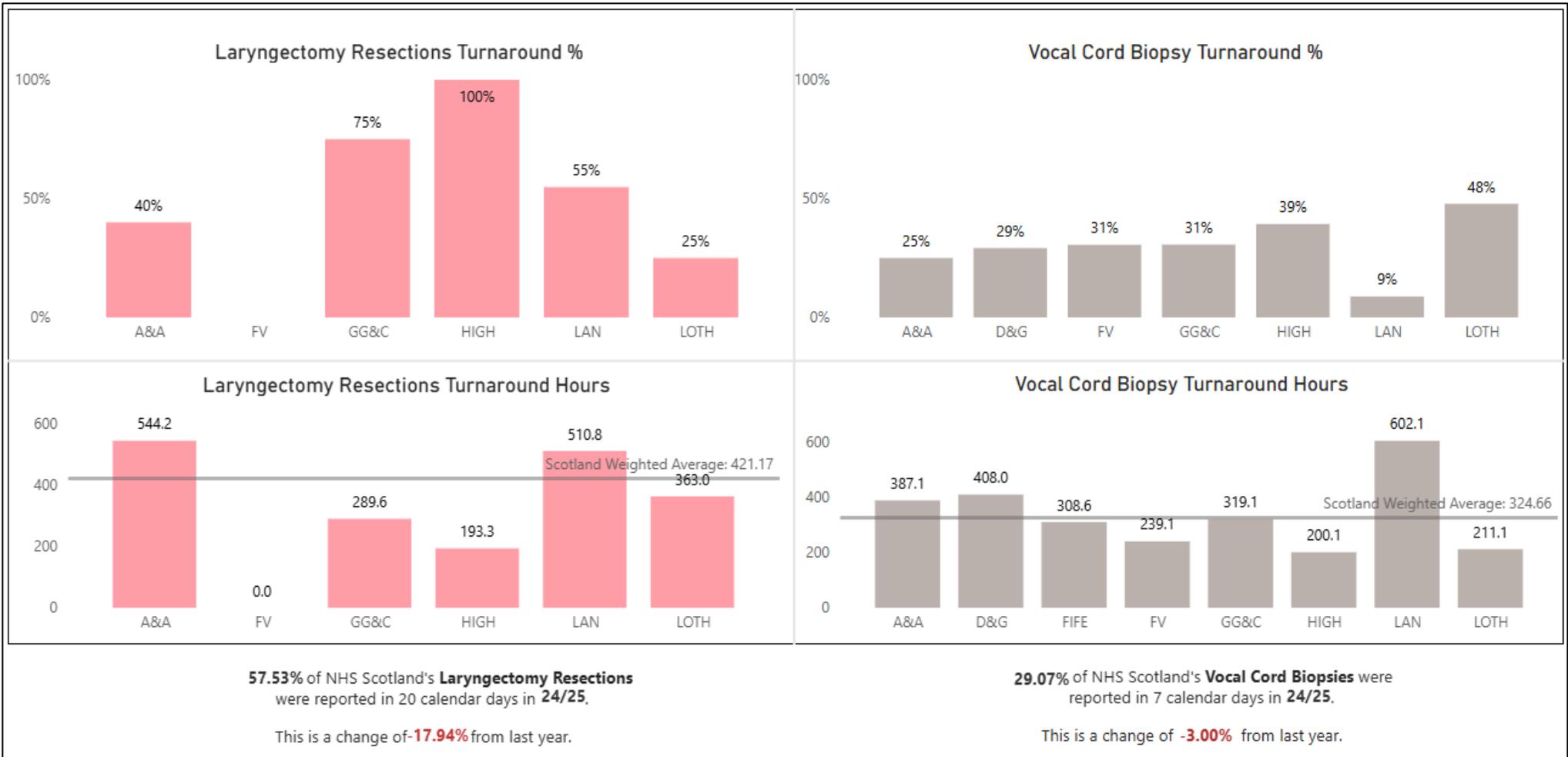
Specimen Specific Turnaround Times



Specimen Specific Turnaround Times



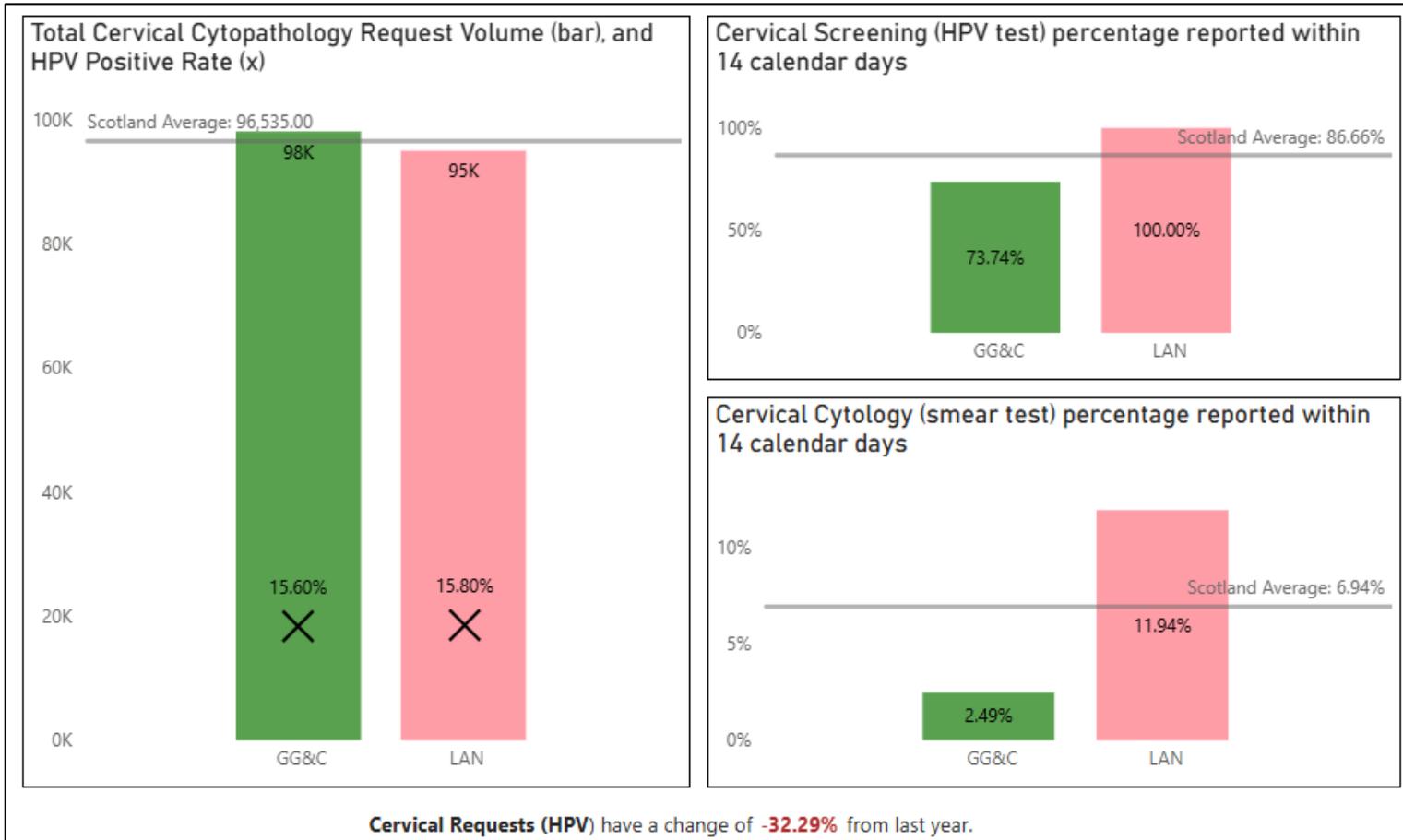
Specimen Specific Turnaround Times



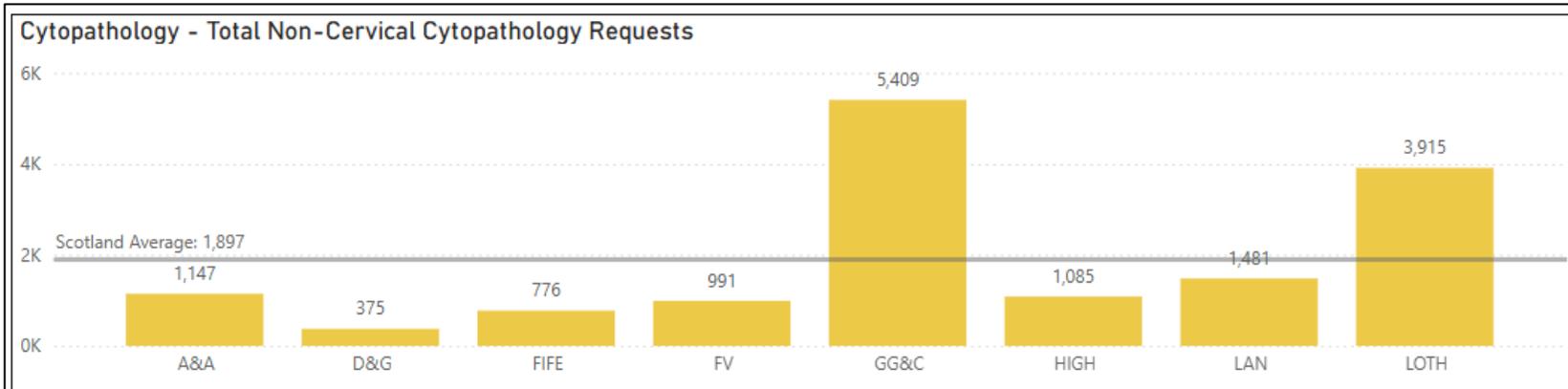
90% of Cases Turnaround

Number of days taken to report 90% of cases						
Health Board	Breast Wide Local Excisions (incl nodes)	Diagnostic Breast Core Needle Biopsies	Diagnostic Colorectal Endoscopy Biopsies	Diagnostic Prostate Needle Core Biopsies	Gallbladder Resections	Rectal Anterior Resections
A&A	No Data					
D&G	16	7	19	27	21	15
FIFE	No Data					
FV	11	6	25	8	28	12
GG&C	8	4	133	18	80	19
HIGH	15	6	5	7	7	11
LAN	21	7	35	10		21
LOTH	19	10	48	14	37	28

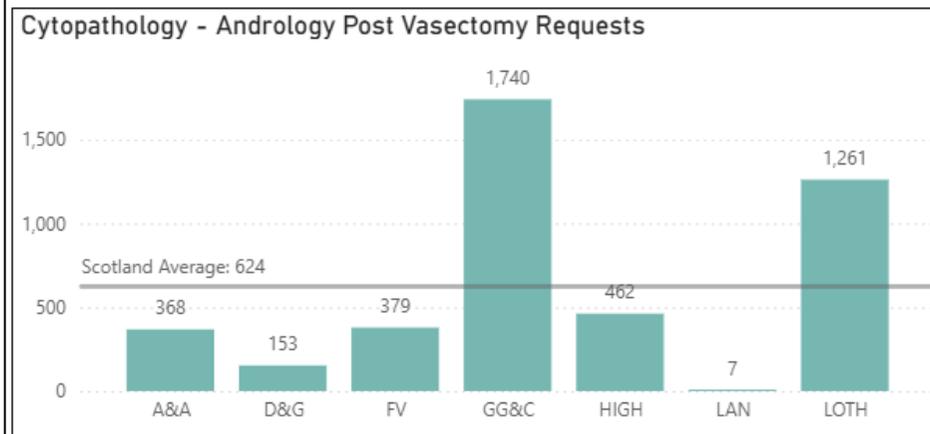
Cytopathology Workload & Turnaround Times



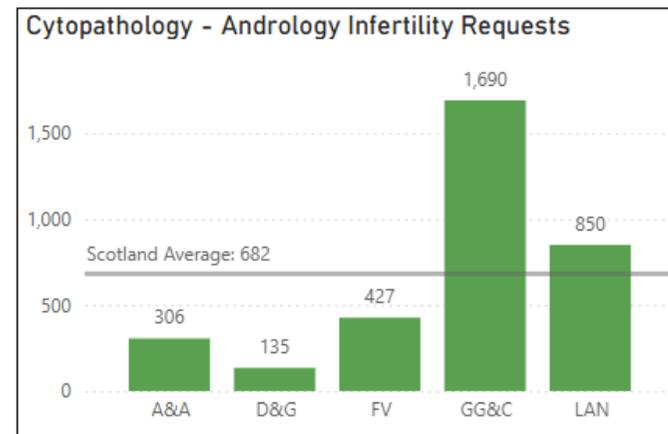
Cytopathology Workload



Non-Cervical Requests have a change of **-0.93%** from last year.

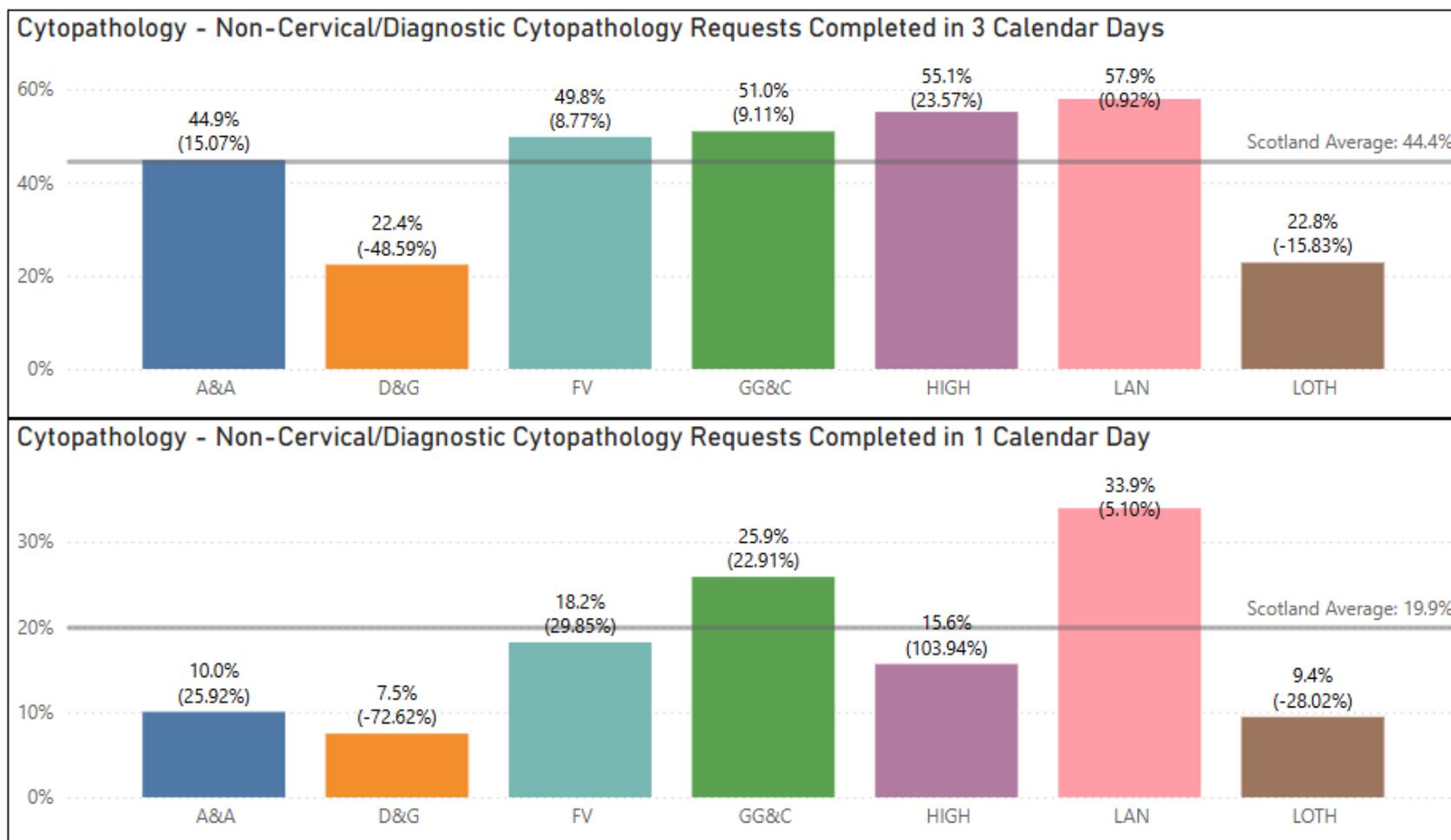


Post Vasectomy Requests have a change of **-21.28%** from last year.

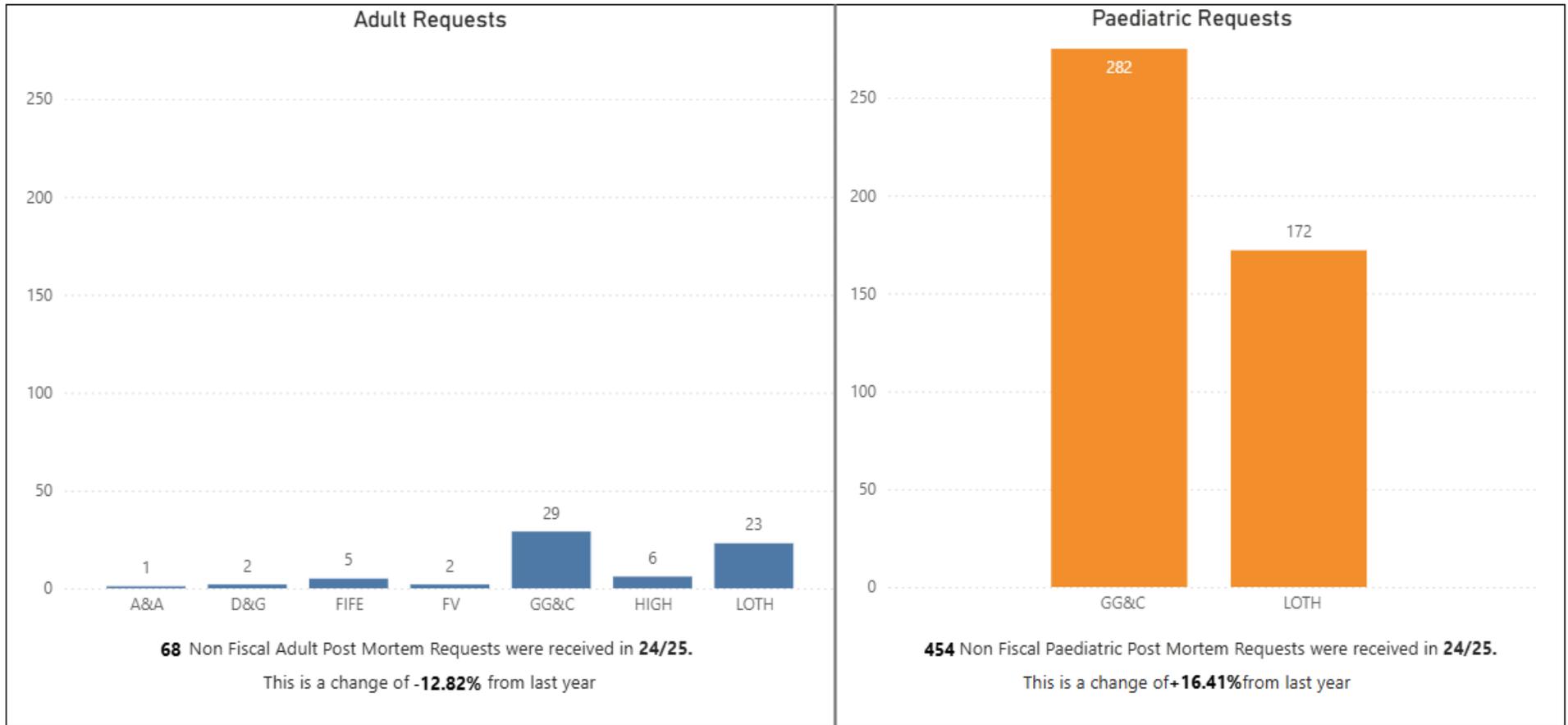


Infertility Requests have a change of **+11.66%** from last year.

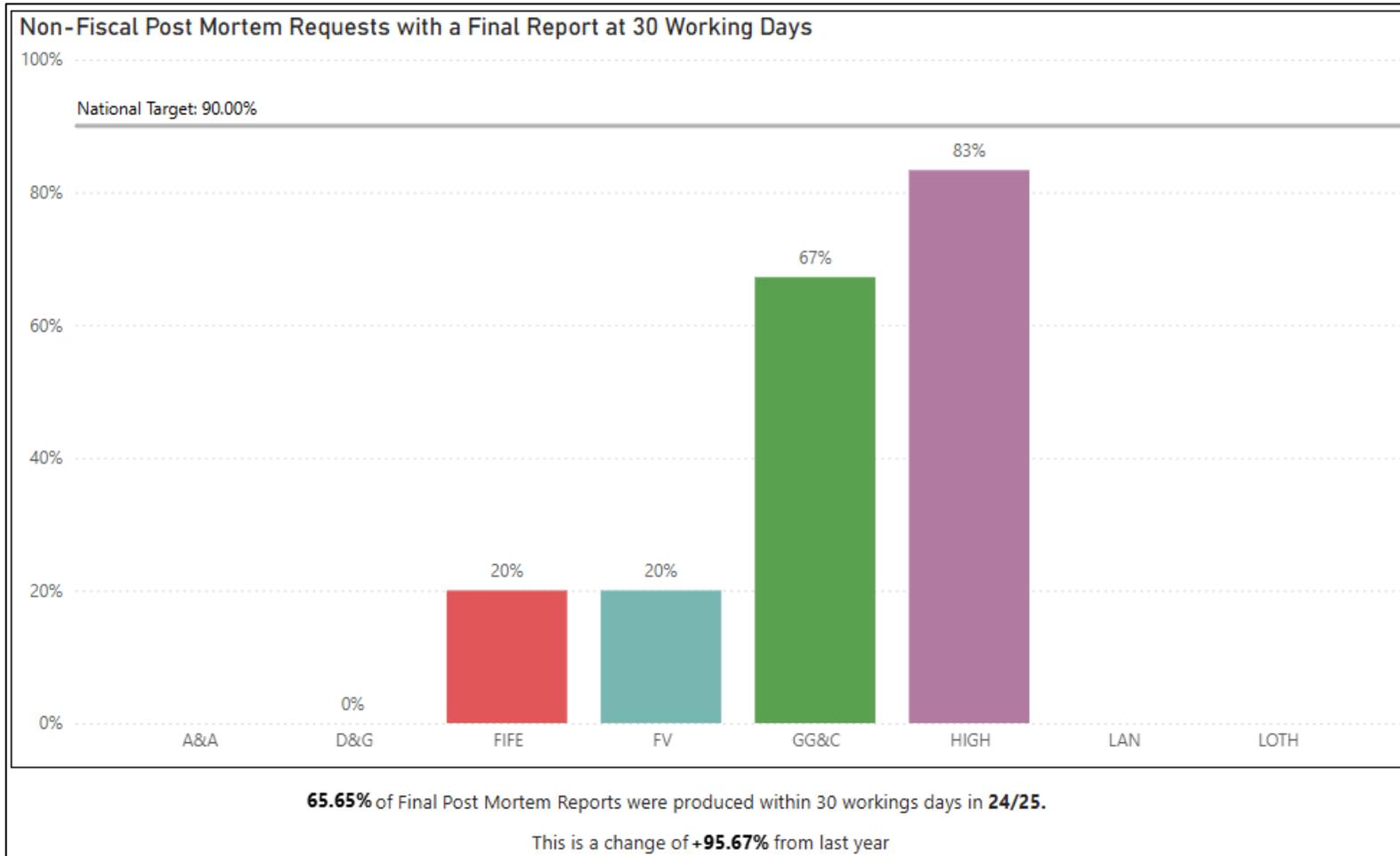
Cytopathology Turnaround with Percentage Change from Last Year



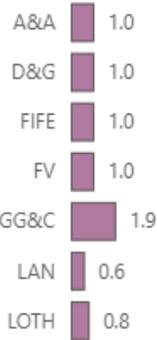
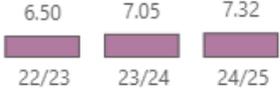
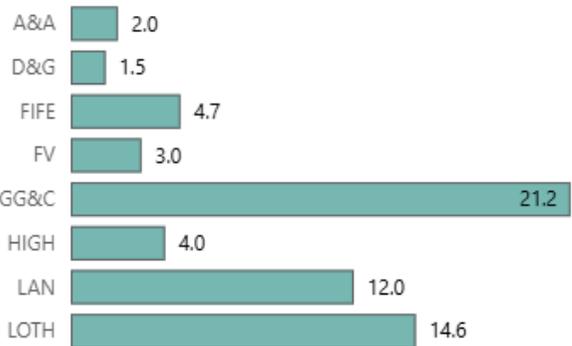
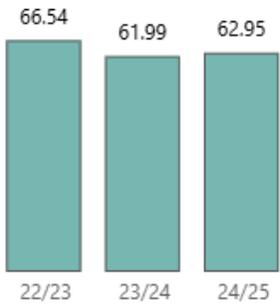
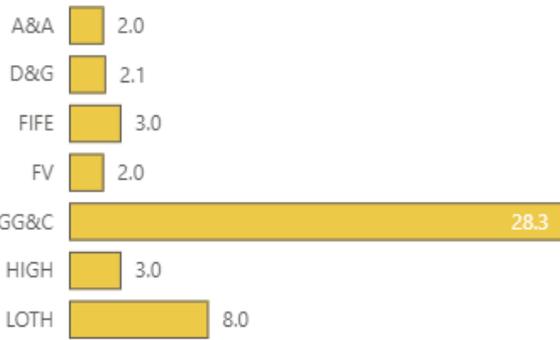
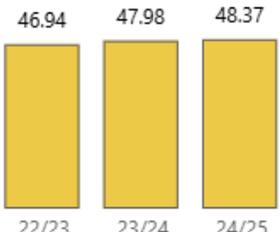
Non-Fiscal Post-Mortem Requests



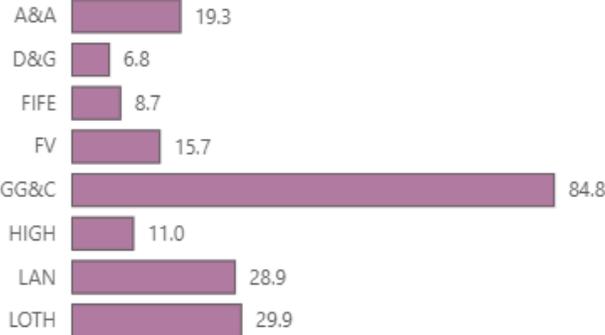
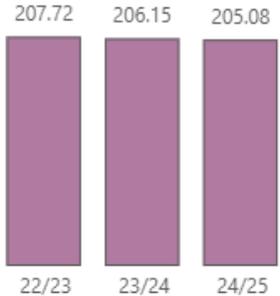
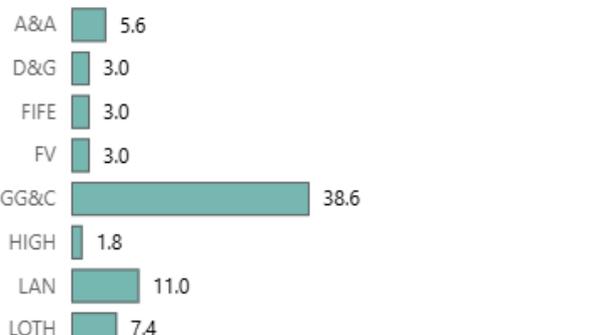
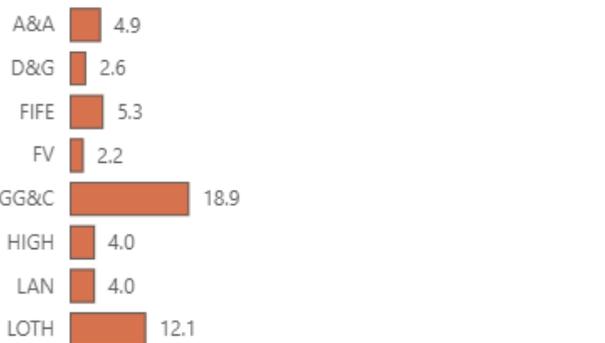
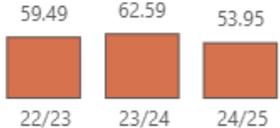
Non-Fiscal Post-Mortem Requests



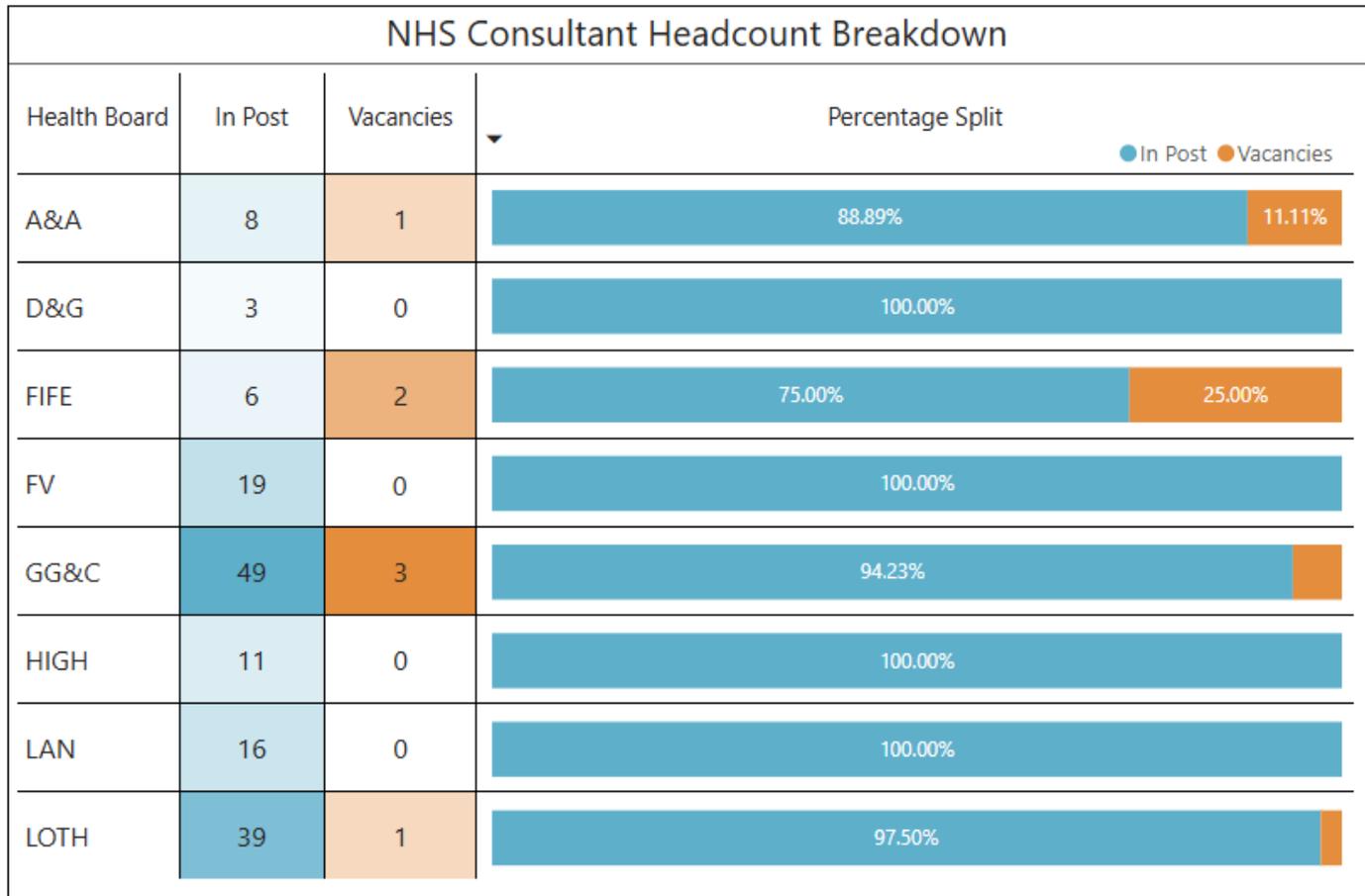
Workforce – Non-Medical Staffing Overview (WTE)

<p>Advanced Practitioner</p>			<p>There were 7.32 WTE Advanced Practitioner Staff this year in NHS Scotland</p> <p>This is a change of +18.01% from last year</p>
<p>Associate Practitioner</p>			<p>There were 62.95 WTE Associate Practitioner Staff this year in NHS Scotland</p> <p>This is a change of +1.55% from last year</p>
<p>Anatomical Pathology Technologist</p>			<p>There were 48.37 WTE Anatomical Pathology Technologist Staff this year in NHS Scotland</p> <p>This is a change of +0.81% from last year</p>

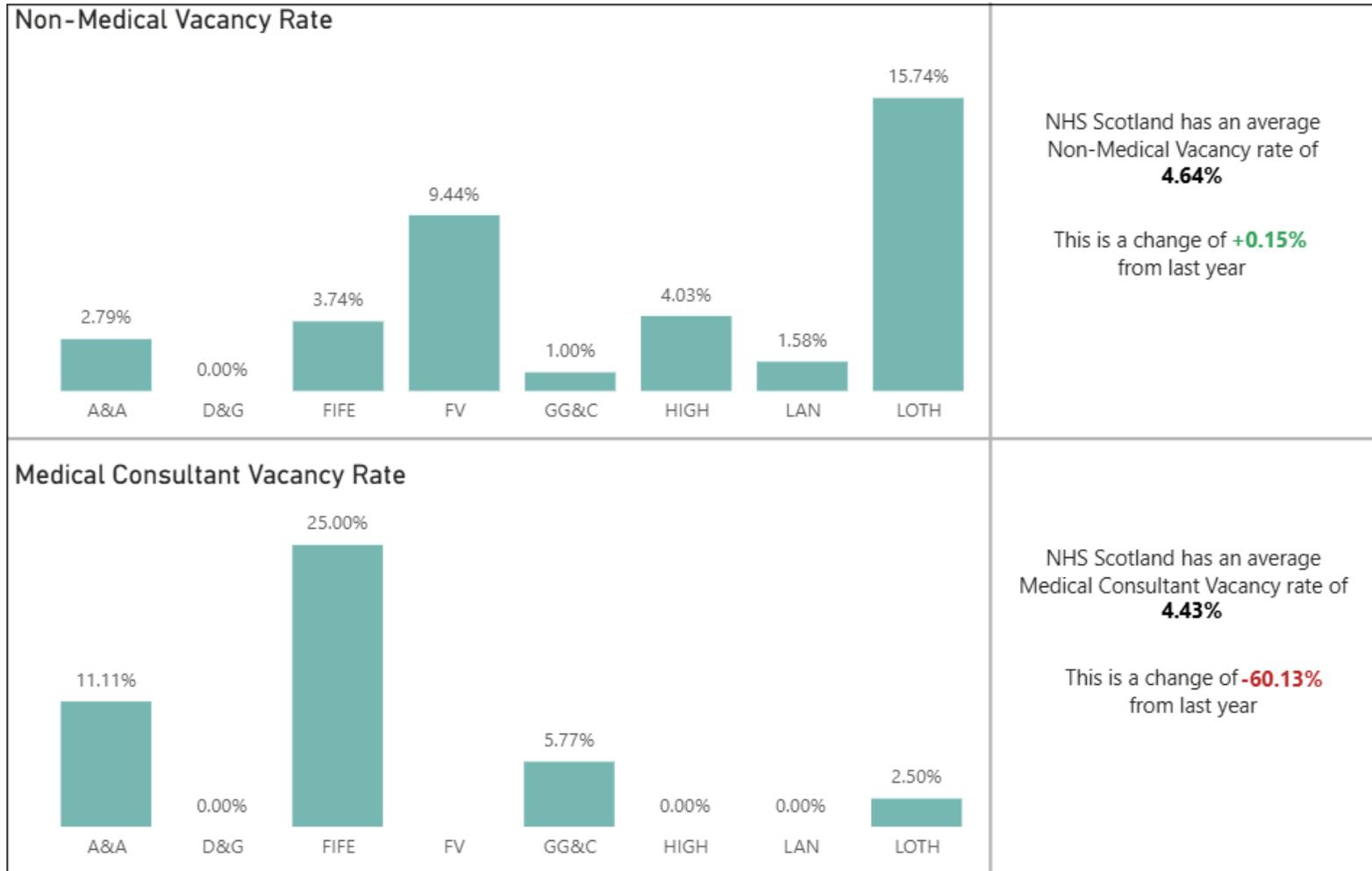
Workforce – Non-Medical Staffing Overview (WTE)

<p>Biomedical Scientist</p>			<p>There were 205.08 WTE Biomedical Scientist Staff this year in NHS Scotland</p> <p>This is a change of -0.52% from last year</p>
<p>HCS Assistant</p>			<p>There were 73.42 WTE HCS Assistant Staff this year in NHS Scotland</p> <p>This is a change of -5.70% from last year</p>
<p>Admin & Clerical</p>			<p>There were 53.95 WTE Admin & Clerical Staff this year in NHS Scotland</p> <p>This is a change of -13.80% from last year</p>

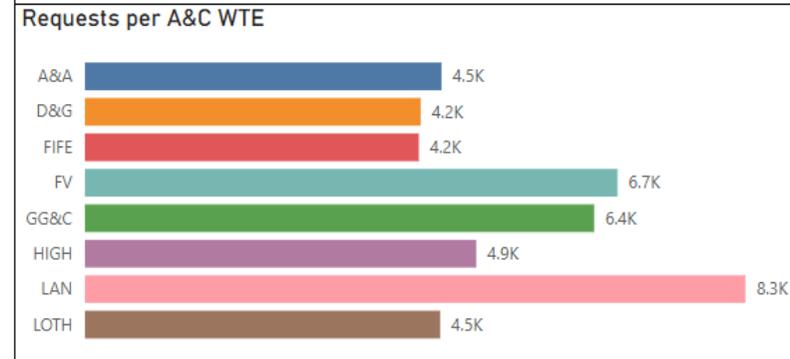
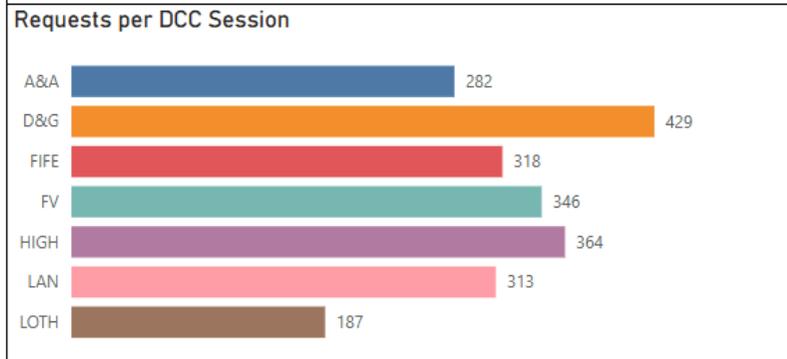
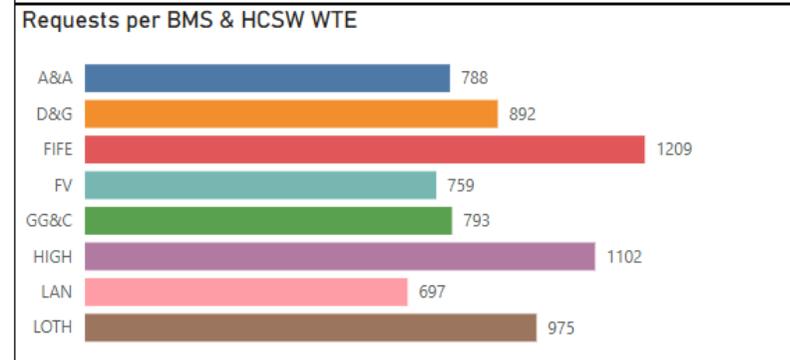
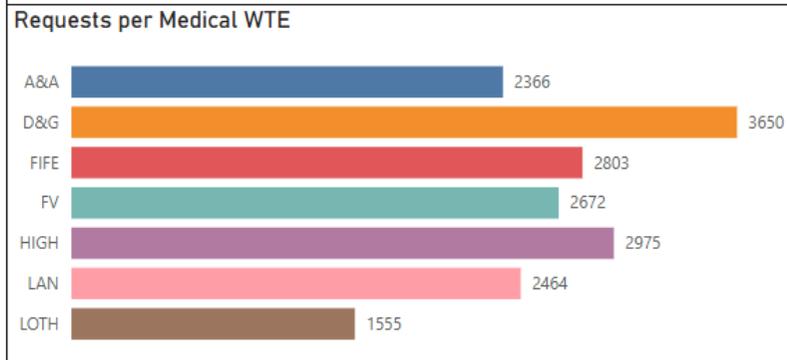
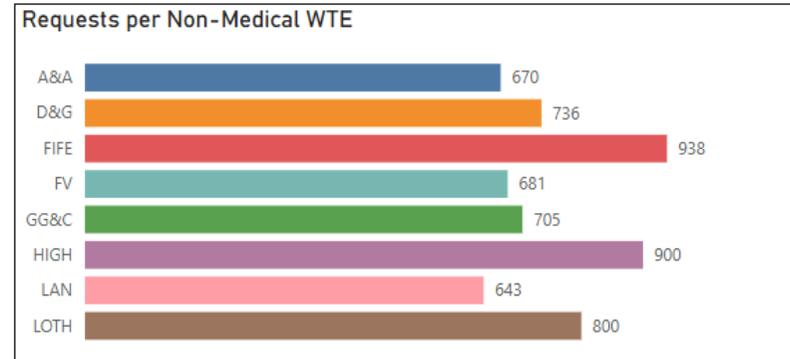
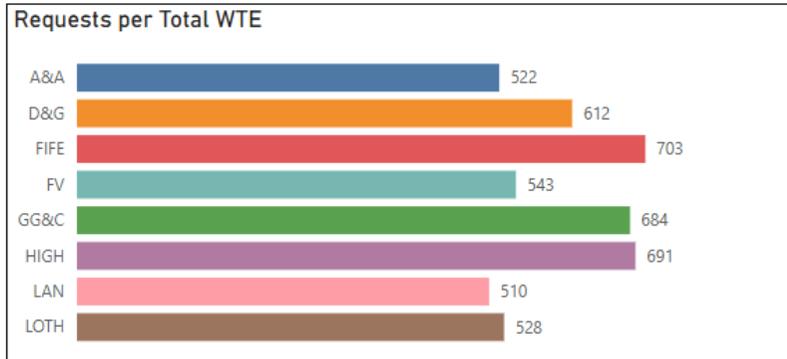
Workforce – Medical Staffing



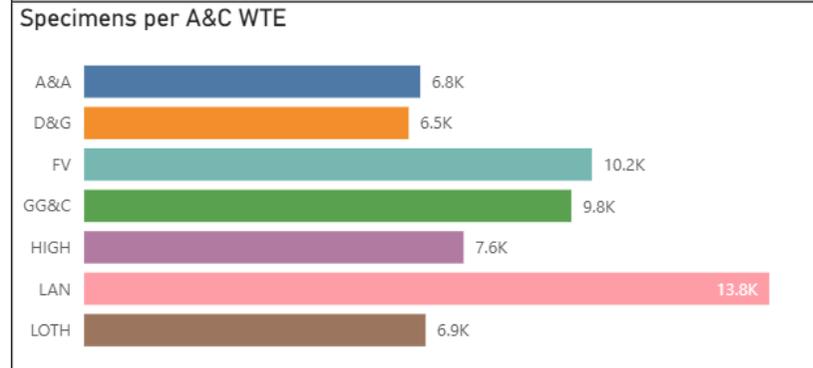
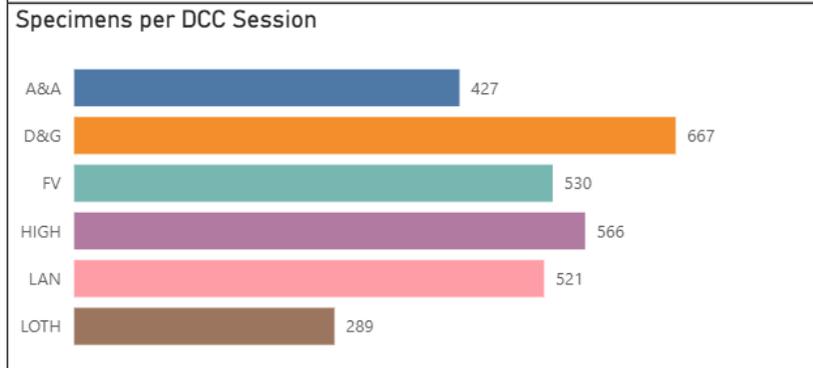
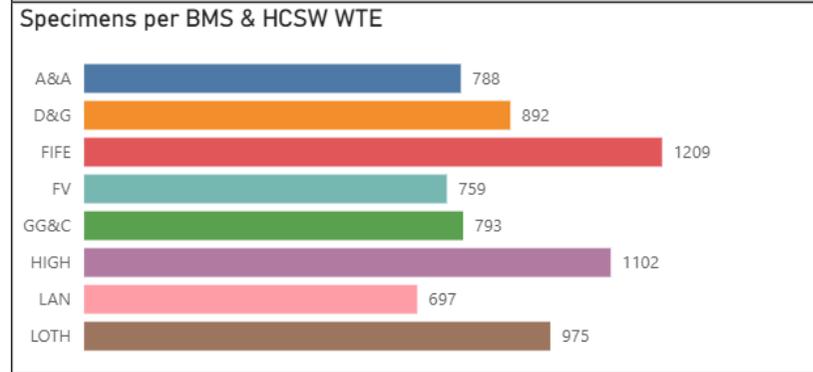
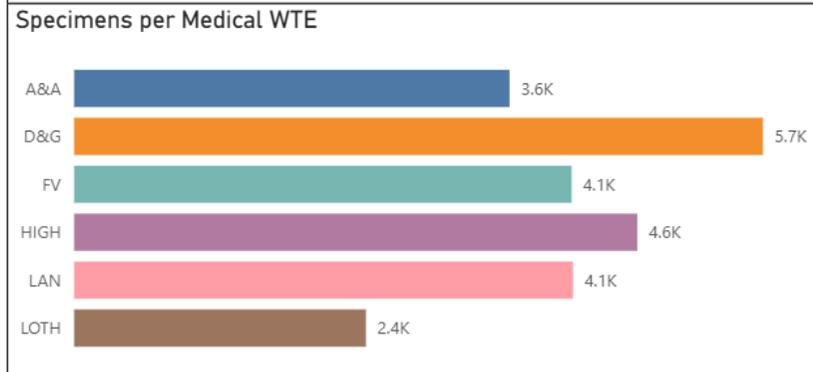
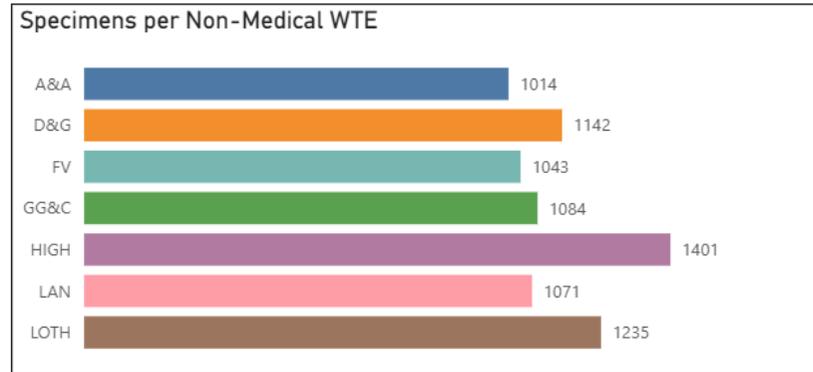
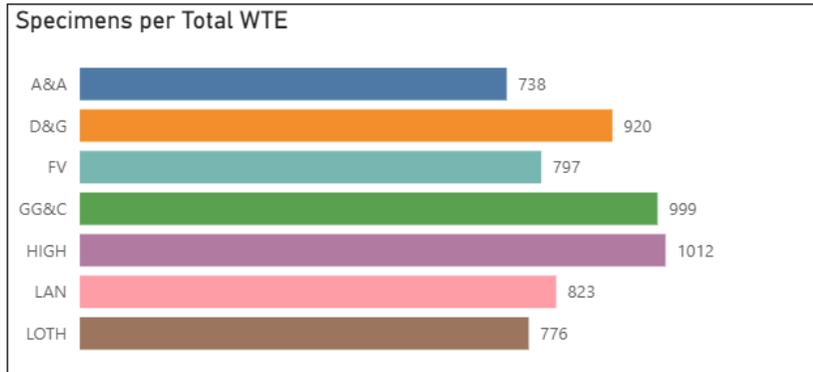
Workforce – Vacancy Rate



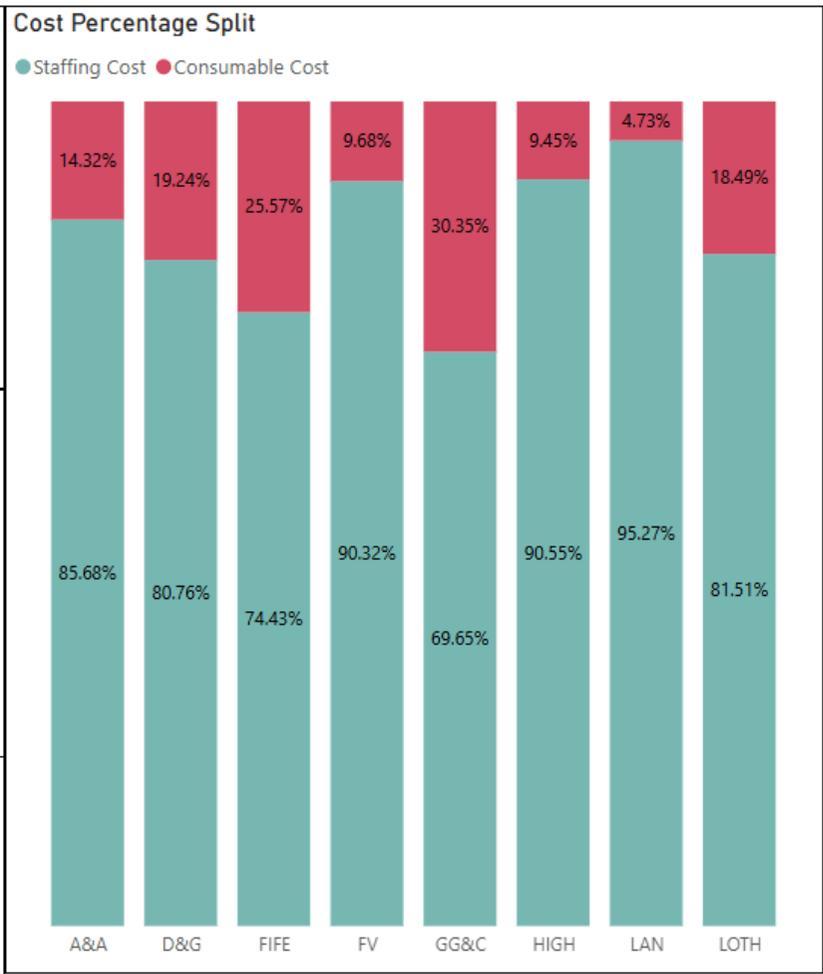
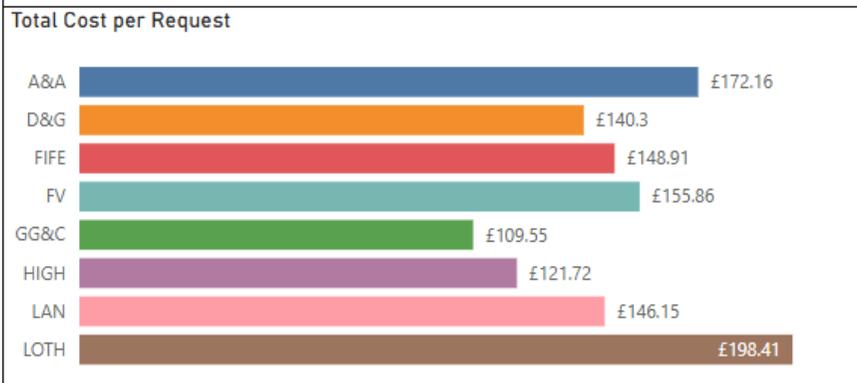
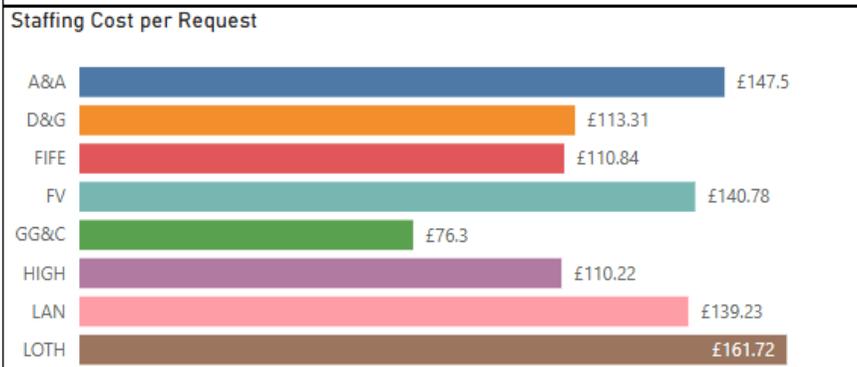
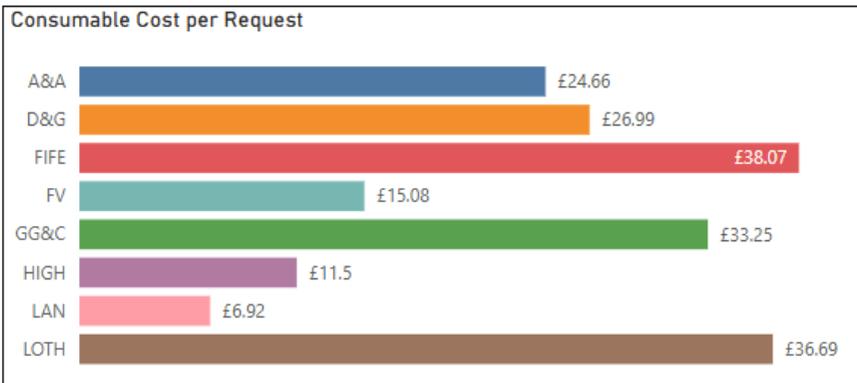
Productivity – Requests per WTE



Productivity – Specimens per WTE



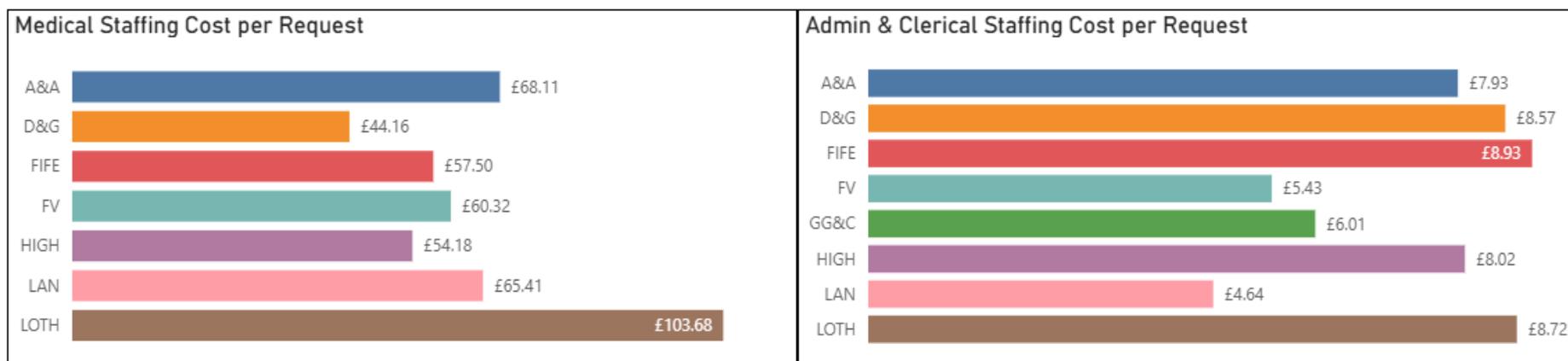
Notional Costs – Requests Costs Overview



The notional non-screening average cost per request for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£144.66**

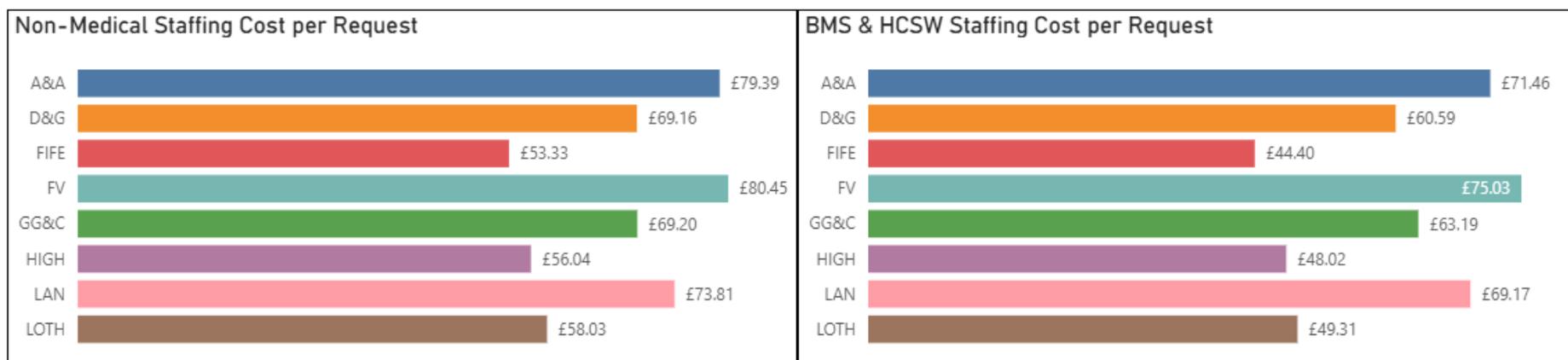
This is a change of **-9.78%** from last year

Notional Costs – Staffing Costs per Request



The average **Medical** cost per request for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£74.57**. This is a change of **-0.86%** from last year.

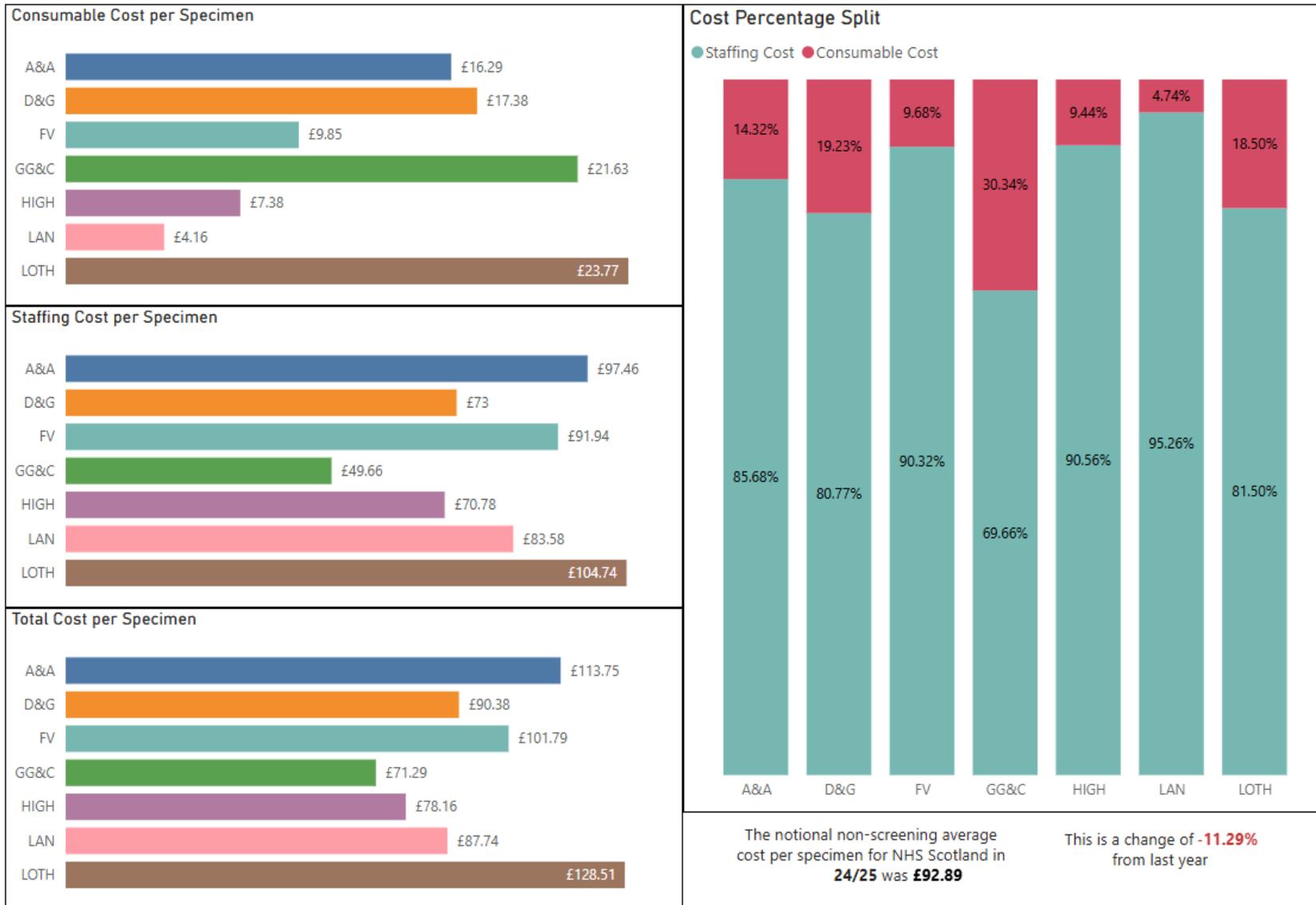
The average **Admin & Clerical** cost per request for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£6.98**. This is a change of **-15.43%** from last year.



The average **Non-Medical** cost per request for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£66.78**. This is a change of **-0.45%** from last year.

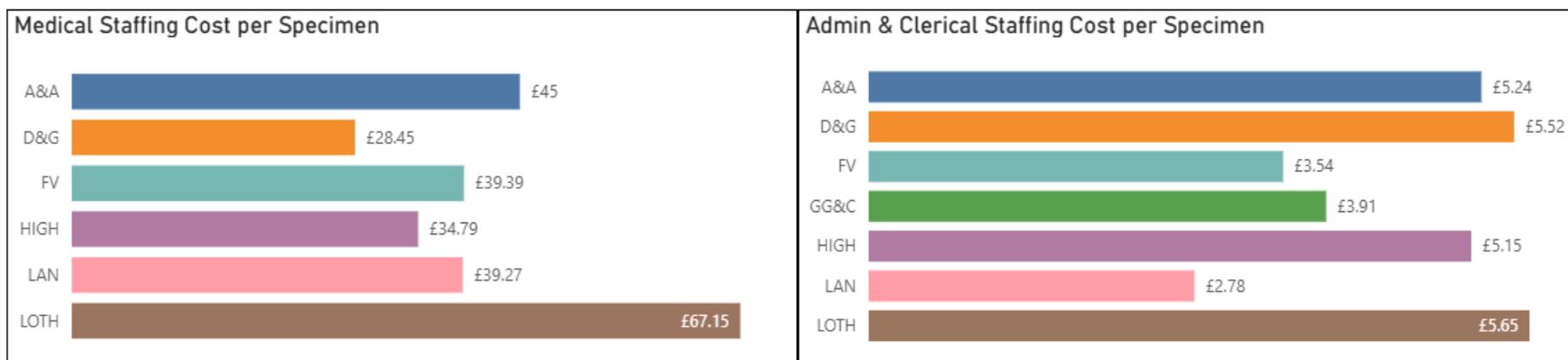
The average **BMS & HCSW** cost per request for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£59.81**. This is a change of **+1.65%** from last year.

Notional Costs – Specimen Costs Overview



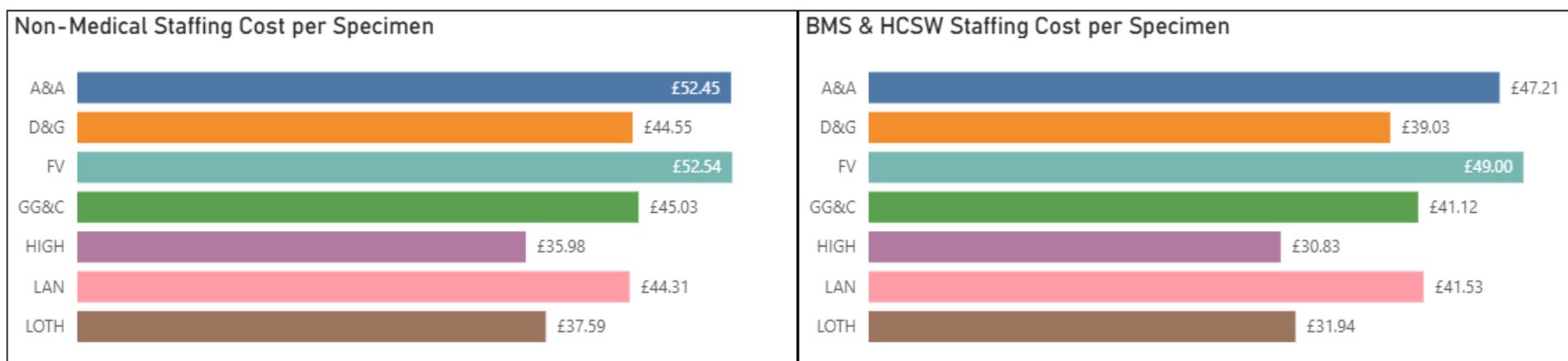
*NHS Fife have been excluded from all visuals on this page, due to system issues preventing data extraction.

Notional Costs – Staffing Costs per Specimen



The average **Medical** cost per specimen for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£19.11**. This is a change of **-0.95%** from last year.

The average **Admin & Clerical** cost per specimen for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£4.39**. This is a change of **-17.15%** from last year.



The average **Non-Medical** cost per specimen for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£43.68**. This is a change of **-0.54%** from last year.

The average **BMS & HCSW** cost per specimen for NHS Scotland in **24/25** was **£39.29**. This is a change of **+1.74%** from last year.

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