

35400 Libraries

How many libraries were open to the public in the local authority for each of the past five calendar years, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

The number of libraries open has been seriously affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. There were months when library closure was mandatory under Scottish Government guidelines. It then took some time to reopen libraries safely in the different levels.

Please refer to the table below for the number of libraries.

How many hours the libraries are open to the public each week.

The hours that libraries were open were also seriously affected by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Please refer to the table below.

Year	Libraries	Hours per week	Notes
2017	28	1,213.4	
2018	28	1,213.4	
2019	28	1,213.4	
2020	10	260	Central, McDonald Road, Newington, Fountainbridge, Kirkliston, Stockbridge Libraries open 06/10/2020-24/12/2020 Craigmillar, Drumbrae Library Hub, Wester Hailes, Gilmerton open 08/12/2020-24/12/2020
2021	22	904	Hours per week as of 31/12/2021. Phased reopening of libraries began on 3 May, with full opening hours for reopened Libraries achieved by 13/12/2021. Ratho and Muirhouse Library operating reduced opening hours due to relocation. During 2021 the following libraries did not reopen; South Neighbourhood (reopened on 11/01/2022) Granton Library - internal space and layout prevents safe operations for staff and customers in respect of Covid-19. (will reopen in 2022) Leith, Newington, Oxfords and Sighthill Library at Gate 22 used as Covid Test Centres.

Are there plans to close or reduce hours for libraries in this local authority?

No, the intention is that all libraries will return to full opening hours as soon as possible.