

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD ASSESSMENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHD assessments in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Do you provide ADHD assessments? Please specify if this is for children, adults or both.

Answer:

Yes, for both adults and children.

Question 2: How many people are currently on your waiting list for ADHD assessments? Please break this down between children and adults.

Answer:

As patients are assessed for ADHD at a neurodevelopmental clinic which also assesses for Asperger's Syndrome Disorder it is not possible to separate these figures. This applies to both adults and children's assessments. There are currently 4,600 adults and 5,526 children on waiting lists for neurodevelopmental assessment in NHS Lothian.

Question:

3. How many assessments have you carried out every calendar year between 2018 and 2023? If possible, please break this down between children and adults.

Answer:

Adult referrals for neurodevelopmental assessments before 2023 were part of general adult mental health waiting lists and therefore data is not collected centrally for neurodevelopmental assessment before this date. Adult figures for 2022 are incomplete. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

This available information is detailed in the table below.

Neurodevelopmental assessments carried out, NHS Lothian		
Year	Adults	Children
2018	Data not available	94
2019	Data not available	138
2020	Data not available	62
2021	Data not available	162
2022*	214	412
2023	327	589
* see note above		

Question:

4. How many ADHD referrals did you receive each calendar year between 2018 and 2023? Please break this down between children and adults.

Answer:

Adult referrals for neurodevelopmental assessments before 2023 were part of general adult mental health waiting lists and therefore data is not collected centrally for neurodevelopmental assessment before this date. Adult figures for 2022 are incomplete. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

The available information is detailed in the table below.

Referrals for Neurodevelopmental assessment, NHS Lothian		
Year	Adults	Children
2018	Data not available	749
2019	Data not available	1,009
2020	Data not available	939
2021	Data not available	1,335
2022*	1,023	2,388
2023	1,413	3,756
* see note above		

Question:

5. How many ADHD referrals did you accept each calendar year between 2018 and 2023? Please break this down between children and adults.

Answer:

Due to the single point of referral for both the neurodevelopmental teams, data is not collected centrally on the number of referrals rejected for neurodevelopmental assessment. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

6. What is the (mean) average time patients wait between referral and an assessment for ADHD for each calendar year between 2018 and 2023? If possible, please break this down between children and adults.

Answer:

Adult referrals for neurodevelopmental assessments before 2023 were part of general adult mental health waiting lists and therefore data is not collected centrally for neurodevelopmental assessment before this date. Adult figures for 2022 are incomplete. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

The available information is detailed in the table below.

Average waiting time for neurodevelopmental assessment (weeks), NHS Lothian		
Year	Adults	Children
2018	Data not available	13
2019	Data not available	13
2020	Data not available	44
2021	Data not available	53
2022*	62	84
2023	90	66
* see note above		

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information



Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive