

Date: 15/04/2024  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8548

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch  
Extension: 35687  
Direct Line: 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS WAITING LIST

I write in response to your request for information in relation to CAMHS waiting lists.

Question:

- At what point is an individual on the CAMHS waiting list considered to be 'taken off' the waiting list? (ie is it once they have received a date for an initial appointment/assessment, after this initial appointment has taken place, once they have started treatment or at another stage)?

Answer:

For patients starting treatment –

Patients who are assessed as requiring treatment from CAMHS will come off the waiting list once they have attended their first treatment appointment with their allocated clinician. In most cases Children and Young people will have had attended an initial assessment appointment, carried out by a CAMHS clinician prior to this but remain on the waiting list until their treatment has commenced.

Question:

- Is the first CAMHS appointment/assessment ordinarily carried out over the phone, online or in-person?

Answer:

CAMHS assessment appointments are carried out through phone, Near Me or in-person, this is dependent on the patient's needs, risks and is person specific.

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](http://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 FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head 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/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive