

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS

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

Question:

1. How many referrals were made to your CAMHS services from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
2. How many (already) diagnosed autistic children/teenagers were referred to your CAMHS services from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
 - a. If possible, could you also please provide the proportion (%) these referrals made up of the total number of referrals each year?
3. How many referrals were ‘rejected’ (i.e. not accepted by CAMHS/referred to another service) from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
 - a. If possible, could you also please provide information on why the referrals were rejected?
4. How many referrals of diagnosed autistic children/teenagers were ‘rejected’ from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
 - a. If possible, could you also provide the proportion (%) these rejections made up of the total number of rejections for each year please.

Please could you provide all of this information in calendar years.

Answer:

Please see below for the answer to 1 and 3.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Referrals	4481	4518	3913	4840	4819	4941	1023
Number of Rejected Referrals	1405	1408	996	1264	1528	1241	220

The table above shows overall number of referrals received and number of referrals rejected by CAMHS Tier 3 teams. 2024 includes up to 19th March 2024 as per request

Due to the way in which NHS Lothian records data we are unable to provide the number of referrals received/rejected for children already diagnosed with autism (questions 2 and 4) without a manual search of Electronic Patient Records.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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 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