

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEURODEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to neurodevelopment services in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Does this health board have a neurodevelopment service / pathway established that patients can be referred to?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

2. How many adults have been referred to the neurodevelopment pathway, as opposed to adult psychological services, broken down by each year since the pathway / service existed?

Answer:

In 2023 there were 3,593 referrals and in 2024 to date there have been 777 referrals to date.

Although there was a separate pathway in place, prior to 2023 adult referrals for neurodevelopmental assessment were added to the general adult mental health waiting lists. We are therefore unable to separate out the number of referrals to this pathway before this date.

Question:

3. How many adults are currently waiting for an appointment on the neurodevelopment pathway?

Answer:

8,408 adults are currently on the waiting list.

Question:

4. How many children have been referred to the neurodevelopment pathway, as opposed to CAMHS, broken down by each year since the pathway / service existed?

Answer:

The table below details the information you have requested. A separate neurodevelopment referral pathway has been in place since 2022. Prior to that referrals lists were joint as part of CAMHS. Children under the age of 7 are referred for Child Development assessment with the community paediatrics teams for ASD assessment.

<b>Children referred to neurodevelopmental pathway (all ADHD referrals, and ASD referrals for ages 7-18), NHS Lothian</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of referrals</b>
2022	2,322
2023	3,744
2024 (to end April 2024)	956

Question:

5. How many children are currently waiting for an appointment on the neurodevelopment pathway?

Answer:

6,179 children are currently on the waiting list.

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 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