

Date: 05/06/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8774

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SLT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to speech and language therapy (SLT) within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- Please see all the information we are able to provide for Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy below.
- The total number of referrals for speech and language therapy, broken down by a) adult and b) children and young people

Answer:

Total number of referrals/requests for assistance for Children and Young people	
2018/19	2,480
2019/20	2,579
2020/21	2,446
2021/22	3,172
2022/23	3,324
2023/24	3,717

Adult Referrals	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Community	724	771	798	876	1138	
Acute		3,834	3,321	3,637	4,032	
Learning disability	312	310	281	283	238	286

Question:

- Both the median and longest wait from referral to an initial appointment/assessment, broken down by a) adult and b) children and young people?

Answer

Longest CYP wait as at 2023/24 - 26 weeks.

Longest Adult wait: as of 2023/24 - 55 weeks adult community, shortest less than 24hrs.

Median wait time not available

Question:

3. Both the median and longest wait from referral to starting treatment, broken down by a) adult and b) children and young people?

Answer

This information is not currently available. 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.

Question:

4. The total number of patients currently on a speech and language therapy waiting list, broken down by a) adult and b) children and young people?

Answer:

Current CYP SLT waiting list for initial appointment across the whole of NHS Lothian is 440.

There were 265 adults waiting for outpatient appointments community and acute in August 2023.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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