

Date 13/02/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9627

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHS assessments.

Question:

- I am requiring numbers specifically for adults over 18 who have requested to be referred for ADHD assessment.

Answer:

	2022	2023	2024
No. of Referrals for ADHD Assessment	270	799	1094
No. of Referrals Rejected	5<	25	61

Table 1: Referrals for an ADHD Assessment

Note: Specific ADHD waiting lists were only set up in our Electronic Patient Information System in 2022. The data for 2022 is incomplete and does not cover the full year.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

- I also require figures of how many of these people have had that request for diagnosis refused for any reason.

Answer:

See “No. of Referrals Rejected” figures in Table 1.

Question:

- Also, how long have people been on the waiting list before they are offered a clinical appointment to begin the diagnosis process.

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Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common
name of Lothian Health Board

Answer:

The average wait, based on the time waited from referral to 1st assessment appointment for patients on specific ADHD waiting lists, seen in last months (August 2024 to end January 2025) is 44 weeks.

Question:

- Finally, how many of the people who have been assessed in adulthood are actually diagnosed with ADHD.

Answer:

We are unable to answer this question because diagnostic coding is not added to outpatient episodes. It would require a search of the case notes for each patient.

Notes on the data:

It should be noted that the majority of adult patients across Lothian are not on a specific ADHD waiting list. The majority of patients are on a non-specific "Neurodevelopmental Assessment" list and without reviewing each patient's clinical notes, we are unable to say whether these patients are waiting for an ADHD, ASD, ADD or other neurodevelopmental assessment.

Our response to this FOI for adult patients is therefore limited to reporting the patients who are currently waiting or were previously waiting on a specific ADHD 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. 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
Cc: Chief Executive