Lothian NHS Board

Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh
EH1 3EG

Telephone: 0131 536 9000
www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Date 06/03/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9687

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHD for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 to date

Question:

1. How many referrals have been made by GPs for assessments for ADHD for a) children b) adults

Answer:

a) children

Please note: For children & young people, there are no ADHD specific waiting lists. All patients are on non-specific "Neurodevelopmental Assessment" lists. We are therefore unable to provide an accurate figure for the number of referrals for an ADHD assessment.

b) adults

Prior to 2023 referrals for Neurodevelopmental referrals were added to General Adult Mental Health Waiting lists and therefore, were not identified specifically as Neurodevelopmental cases. These referrals/waiting lists were re-categorised in 2023. We are therefore unable to provide accurate historical data from our electronic patient information system for patients who were referred and /or have been seen for assessment prior to 2023. The data prior to 2023 should therefore be regarded as incomplete.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of GP referrals for ADHD assessments	267	699	718

Question:

2. How many referrals have been made by GPs for assessments for autism for a) Children b) adults

Answer:

a) children

Please note: For children & young people, there are no ASD specific waiting lists. All patients are on non-specific "Neurodevelopmental Assessment" lists. We are therefore unable to provide an accurate figure for the number of referrals for an ASD assessment.

NB: Community Peads see children <7 years of age for autism assessments, so data would need to be sourced from them for this additional information.

b) adults

It should be noted that the majority of adult patients are not on a specific ASD 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 ASD, ADHD or other neurodevelopmental assessment.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of GP referrals for ASD assessments	126	244	214

Question:

3. In the case that the board does not specify the condition for each referral, could you provide the general referral numbers for a) children and b) adults

Answer:

a) children and

The majority of neurodevelopmental (ND) referrals for CAMHS go through the Tier 3 Outpatients (OP) teams for a CHOICE assessment prior to being added to an ND waiting list. Once added to the ND waiting list the referral source becomes "outpatient department" and thus we cannot extract the number of referrals that came from GPs without looking through patient clinical notes.

b) adults across these years.

GP Referral Source/ ND Teams	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
General Number of GP referrals to adult ND teams	2750	3624	3184

Question:

4. How long is the waiting time in weeks for an ADHD assessment for a) children b) adults

Answer:

a) children

Please see answer in Q5 below

b) adults

Average wait in the last 6 months for an assessment with an ADHD Adult team: 44 weeks

Question:
5. How long is the waiting time in weeks for an autism assessment for a) children b)adults

Answer:

a) children
As above, for CAMHS this has been answered for waiting time for assessment with a neurodevelopmental team. The average wait for an assessment with the CAMHS ND team for those who have had a first attended appt in the past 6 months is 80 weeks.

NB: Community Peadiatrics see children <7 years of age for autism assessments so data would need to be sourced from them for this information.

b) adults
Average wait in the last 6 months for an assessment with an ASD Adult team: 37 weeks
Average wait in the last 6 months for an assessment with the Adult ND team: 151 weeks.

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
Cc: Chief Executive