

Date 03/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9712

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHD in West Lothian.

### Question:

I write to request the following information **specific to NHS West Lothian** under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

1. What are the current wait times (as of today's date) for Assessment of the following:
  - a. Adult ADHD
  - b. Adult Neurodiverse
  - c. Child ADHD
  - d. Child Neurodiverse

### Answer:

a.	It should be noted that the majority of adult patients 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 or other neurodevelopmental assessment. West Lothian does not have an ADHD specific Waiting List. 174 weeks
b.	The average Wait time for a patient who had a first assessment with the Adult Neurodevelopmental West Lothian team in the past 6 months was: 174 weeks
c.	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 wait times to assessment or number of children currently waiting specifically for an ADHD assessment.
d.	The average Wait time for CYP who had a first assessment with the CAMHS West Lothian ND team in the past 6 months was: 108 weeks

### Question:

2. I see from FOI 9456 that it should be noted that the majority of adults are not on a specific ADHD waitlist. Could you explain:

- a. Why there is a separate waitlist for some adults & what is the distinction between them
- b. If adults on the specific ADHD waitlist wait less time than adults on the ND list

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

Answer:

a.	There is no separate ADHD list – all patient waiting for an ASD or ADHD diagnosis wait on the same list.
b.	In West Lothian all patients are on a non specific "neurodevelopmental assessment" list. The use of general neurodevelopmental and specific ADHD or ASD lists is related to geographical area.

Question:

3. How many full time staff/ FTE - for the periods 24/25 and 23/24 and 22/23 - are able to diagnose:

- a. Adult ADHD
- b. Adult Neurodiverse
- c. Child ADHD
- d. Child Neurodiverse

Answer:

a.	We have currently 3 Psychiatrists able to diagnose and 3 nurses, but this figure changes frequently. They do not devote all of their time to NDD assessment.
b.	We have currently 3 Psychiatrists able to diagnose and 3 nurses, but this figure changes frequently. They do not devote all of their time to NDD assessment.
c.	We currently have 2 clinical psychologists diagnosing ND (ADHD, ASD and ID) and 2.3wte psychiatrist
d.	We currently have 2 clinical psychologists diagnosing ND (ADHD, ASD and ID) and 2.3wte psychiatrist

Question:

4. If diagnosed with ADHD, how long till titration begins for:

- a. Adult
- b. Children

Answer:

This information is not held in a centrally extractable format and is difficult to give a figure as we have had multiple personnel changes so the length of time has varied, and has been affected by medication shortages.

This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all patient files 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](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 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