

Date 11/04/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9855

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

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS WAITS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to CAMHS waits

Question:

- I would like information as to the time between **the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment)**, where a CAMHS professional will talk to the child or young person who is unwell, listen to their symptoms and decide on how to help them, **and the start of treatment**. As such, can I request the following, broken down by the calendar years 2019, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (most recent):
- The median wait (in days) between **the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment)**, where a CAMHS professional will talk to the child or young person who is unwell, listen to their symptoms and decide on how to help them, **and the start of treatment**.

Answer:

	2019	2023	2024	2025
Median Wait Between initial Choice assessment & start of treatment	226	156	154	141

Table 1: Median wait (Days) between Initial CHOICE assessment and start of treatment

Question:

- The longest wait (in days) between **the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment)**, where a CAMHS professional will talk to the child or young person who is unwell, listen to their symptoms and decide on how to help them, **and the start of treatment**.

Answer:

	2019	2023	2024	2025
Longest Wait between initial Choice assessment and start of treatment (days)	1,380	1,577	2,291	1,247

Headquarters  
Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

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

Table 2: The longest wait (days) between Initial CHOICE Assessment and the start of treatment

**Note:**

2025 is an incomplete year and includes Jan and Feb data only

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