

Date 07/05/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9972

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHD and prison.

### Question:

1. The Lothians NHS board are responsible for the provision of healthcare, including mental health and psychiatry services, within retrospective HMP prisons in their board area. Please provide the expected and actual wait times for a prisoner within any given HMP establishment, specifically for a ADHD Assessment. I would be satisfied with a general answer, such as the range of wait times(shortest to longest) as opposed to specific prisons, however I ask that you provide the data for the last 3 years.
2. How many persons have been diagnosed with ADHD whilst serving a custodial sentence within any hmp establishment in the Lothian board. Please provide data for the last 3 years.

### Answer:

I am advised that patients are assessed by nurses (within the mental health team) who will conduct screening tools and present the results to the psychiatrist within both prisons in NHS Lothian, the current waiting lists for both prisons to be reviewed by psychiatry are 12 weeks. This has been an average wait over the last 3 years. The wait to be reviewed by the mental health teams in each establishment is currently sitting at 3 weeks average for HMP Lothian prisons. Over the last 3 years this has varied dependant on which establishment the patient is residing. HMP Addiewell had an average waiting time form 2022/23 (November) of 10 weeks, this is now 2 weeks (current waiting list (March 2025). HMP Edinburgh has been on average 3-4 weeks over this period).

Due to issues with the coding system it is not possible to provide ADHD diagnosis figures for the period requested. 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

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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*

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