

Date: 02/04/2025
Our Ref: 9720
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – COMMUNITY PAEDIATRIC WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Community Child Health in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Outpatient Waiting Times for Consultant-Led Clinics: Please provide the outpatient waiting times for all services, specialties, and sub-specialties categorised as community paediatrics for consultant-led clinics through any commissioning line from 2013 to 2024. Any shorter-term data sets, ideally pre-COVID will be acceptable if 2013 - 2024 is not available.

Answer:

The table below shows the average waiting times for completed waits in community paediatrics new outpatients appointments.

Community Paediatrics Outpatients waiting times, NHS Lothian	
Year	Median waiting time (days)
2013	30
2014	33
2015	42
2016	51
2017	55
2018	49
2019	56
2020	83
2021	59
2022	61
2023	84
2024	129

Question:

2. Inpatient and Day Case Treatment Waiting Times: Please provide the waiting times for all services, specialties, and sub-specialties categorised as community paediatrics for

patients due to receive planned inpatient or day case treatment through any commissioning line from 2013 to 2024. Any shorter-term data sets, ideally pre-COVID will be acceptable if 2013 - 2024 is not available.

Answer:

There are no waits for inpatient and day case community paediatrics appointments.

Question:

3. Outpatient Waiting Times for Health Visitor and AHP Led Services: Please provide the outpatient waiting times for all services categorised as community child health for Health Visitor and Allied Health Professional (AHP) led services through any commissioning line from 2013 to 2024. Any shorter-term data sets, ideally pre-COVID will be acceptable if 2013 - 2024 is not available.

Answer:

There are no waits for Health Visitor services, all referrals are addressed at the time.

The waiting times for Allied Health Professional paediatrics services are attached. I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Question:

4. Outpatient Waiting Times for Neurodevelopmental Assessment Clinics: Please provide the outpatient waiting times for all services categorised as neurodevelopmental assessment clinics through any commissioning line from 2013 to 2024. Any shorter-term data sets, ideally pre-COVID will be acceptable if 2013 - 2024 is not available.

Answer:

The table below shows the waiting times from referral to first appointment for neurodevelopmental assessment run by NHS Lothian's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Due to a change in how referrals were recorded, we are not able to provide data from before 2018.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Neurodevelopmental waiting times, NHS Lothian	
Year	Average wait (weeks)
2018	14.7
2019	16.4
2020	40.6
2021	69.5
2022	89.2
2023	73.0
2024	80.2

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive