

Date: 16/06/2025  
Our Ref: 9980  
Enquiries to [loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD ASSESSMENT**

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

### **Question:**

1. Please provide a copy of the procedure for not accepting private diagnosis or ADHD without an NHS assessment, and a copy of the equality impact assessment.

### **Answer:**

There is no specific procedure or integrated impact assessment in NHS Lothian that is specific to this. Practitioners follow guidance by the National Autism Implementation Team which can be found on their website here: <https://www.thirdspace.scot/nait/diagnosis-resources/>. A practitioner needs to undertake their own assessment of the patient to determine any diagnosis and any appropriate treatment. Only once this assessment has taken place can they agree what treatment is required and consider following the shared-care protocol which allows GPs to prescribe the medication. To ensure equal access to treatment NHS waiting times for patients transferring from private to NHS treatment will be consistent with those for patients undergoing wholly NHS treatment.

### **Question:**

2. Please provide a copy of the protocol used by the North West Edinburgh Community Mental Health Team for assessing ADHD and an explanation of how this differs from the Connors protocol used by the Glasgow Private Clinic.

### **Answer:**

There is no protocol specifically for the North West Edinburgh Community Mental Health Team for assessing ADHD. Practitioners follow national guidance for assessment and diagnosis of patients. NHS Lothian's Psychiatrists use the DIVA for their assessments for ADHD. The DIVA is a structured, evidence-based, diagnostic interview tool which enables clinicians to diagnose adults with ADHD in line with the DSM-V criteria. The Connors protocol is a rating scale questionnaire used to understand academic, behavioural and social issues that may lead to a diagnosis of ADHD in children.

Question:

3. Has North West Edinburgh Community Mental Health Team and NHS Lothian used private clinics to assist them in their assessments in the past 10 years, and or accepted any other private diagnosis for ADHD.

Answer:

NHS Lothian has not used private clinics or contractors to undertake ADHD assessments on their behalf.

All treatment for ADHD in North West Edinburgh Community Mental Health Team is given following an assessment by the Consultant Psychiatrist working in the team. All referrals for assessment are triaged and added to the waiting list.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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