

Date 10/07/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10231

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS WAITS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waits.

### Question:

- I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding the delivery of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) within your health board.

Please provide the following information:

- Engagement Appointments**
  - Does your health board currently deliver *engagement appointments* as defined in the CAMHS National Service Specification (2020)?
  - If yes, since what date have these appointments been in operation?
  - If no, did your board previously deliver engagement appointments? If so, during what period were they delivered?

### Answer:

The service is not aware that these constitute an element of the CAMHS National Service Specification (2020). NHS Lothian CAMHS structures appointments according to the Choice and Partnership Approach.

### Question:

- Waiting List Data for Mental Health Disorders**
  - As of the most recent available date, what is the number of children and young people currently on your internal waiting list for mental health disorders (excluding neurodevelopmental pathways)?
  - What is the **longest current wait time (in weeks)** for a child or young person on:
    - the **internal** waiting list for mental health disorders (excluding neurodevelopmental pathways)?
    - the **external** waiting list for mental health disorders (excluding neurodevelopmental pathways)?

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*

Answer:

The service is unclear what is meant by Internal Waiting Lists. NHS Lothian's CAMHS LDP waiting list covers all people awaiting the start of a period of intervention which meets the CAMHS specification. This list is reported to Scottish Government and these waits form the published data regarding NHS Lothian's CAMHS. On occasions there will be people who require an additional second period of intervention following a 'Partnership' intervention, and they may need to wait for those and these waits are not reported as they fall outwith the LDP standard.

The Longest current wait is between 70 and 80 weeks. To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

I am sorry I cannot help further 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