

Date: 27/08/2025
Our Ref: 10175
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEURODEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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

Question:

1. ASD adults:

- a) As at today's date, how many people are on the NHS waiting list awaiting assessment in my NHS area?
- b) How many total referrals has the NHS received in the last 12 months in my NHS area?
- c) How many assessments has the NHS carried out in my NHS area?
- d) What is the estimated waiting time for assessment as at today's date in my NHS area?
- e) Who carries out assessments in my NHS area?
- f) How many individuals are qualified to carry out assessments in my NHS area?
- g) How much has been spent on assessment in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

There is not a separate referral pathway for adult ASD assessment in NHS Lothian. Patients are referred for neurodevelopmental assessment. Please see the answers to your questions below about referrals, assessments and waiting times for adult neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

2. ASD children & adolescents:

- a) As at today's date, how many people are on the NHS waiting list awaiting assessment in my NHS area?

- b) How many total referrals has the NHS received in the last 12 months in my NHS area?
- c) How many assessments has the NHS carried out in my NHS area?
- d) What is the estimated waiting time for assessment as at today's date in my NHS area?
- e) Who carries out assessments in my NHS area?
- f) How many individuals are qualified to carry out assessments in my NHS area?
- g) How much has been spent on assessment in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

There is not a separate referral pathway for children and young people's ASD assessment in NHS Lothian. Patients are referred for neurodevelopmental assessment. Please see the answers to your questions below about referrals, assessments and waiting times for children and young people's neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

3. ADHD adults:

- a) As at today's date, how many people are on the NHS waiting list awaiting assessment in my NHS area?
- b) How many total referrals has the NHS received in the last 12 months in my NHS area?
- c) How many assessments has the NHS carried out in my NHS area?
- d) What is the estimated waiting time for assessment as at today's date in my NHS area?
- e) Who carries out assessments in my NHS area?
- f) How many individuals are qualified to carry out assessments in my NHS area?
- e) How much has been spent on assessment in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

There is not a separate referral pathway for adult ADHD assessment in NHS Lothian. Patients are referred for neurodevelopmental assessment. Please see the answers to your questions below about referrals, assessments and waiting times for adult neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

4. ADHD children & adolescents:

- a) As at today's date, how many people are on the NHS waiting list awaiting assessment in my NHS area?
- b) How many total referrals has the NHS received in the last 12 months in my NHS area?
- c) How many assessments has the NHS carried out in my NHS area?
- d) What is the estimated waiting time for assessment as at today's date in my NHS area?
- e) Who carries out assessments in my NHS area?
- f) How many individuals are qualified to carry out assessments in my NHS area?
- g) How much has been spent on assessment in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

There is not a separate referral pathway for children and young people's ADHD assessment in NHS Lothian. Patients are referred for neurodevelopmental assessment. Please see the answers to your questions below about referrals, assessments and waiting times for adult neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

If the above specific data is unavailable, I would like to request the following:

5) Adults awaiting Neurodevelopmental Assessment:

- a) As at today's date, how many people are on the NHS waiting list awaiting assessment in my NHS area?

Answer:

On 8 June 2025, there were 10,633 adults waiting for neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

- b) How many total referrals has the NHS received in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

In the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025 there were 3,722 referrals for adult neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

- c) How many assessments has the NHS carried out in my NHS area?

Answer:

In the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025, NHS Lothian carried out 718 adult neurodevelopmental assessments.

Question:

d) What is the estimated waiting time for assessment as at today's date in my NHS area?

Answer:

In the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025, the average waiting time for completed adult neurodevelopmental assessment was 97 weeks.

Question:

e) Who carries out assessments in my NHS area?

f) How many individuals are qualified to carry out assessments in my NHS area?

Answer:

The following clinicians have neurodevelopmental assessment as part of their job plans:

Midlothian: 4 consultants, 3 psychologists, 1 nurse and 1 occupational therapist.

Edinburgh: General psychiatry undertake assessments as part of an outpatient clinic.

East Lothian: 4 band 6 nurses and 1 consultant psychologist.

West Lothian: 1 consultant (0.1 WTE) and 2 band 6 Community Psychiatric Nurses (0.4 WTE in total).

Question:

g) How much has been spent on assessment in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

It is not possible to break down the spend on adult neurodevelopmental assessment, as this spend is part of an overall psychiatric services budget, or in the case of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Associated Services, part of the budget for adult neurodevelopmental assessment and treatment.

Question:

6. Children & adolescents awaiting Neurodevelopmental Assessment:

a) As at today's date, how many people are on the NHS waiting list awaiting assessment in my NHS area?

Answer:

On 8 June 2025, there were 9,643 children and young people waiting for neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

b) How many total referrals has the NHS received in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

In the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025 there were 4,133 referrals for children and young people's neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

c) How many assessments has the NHS carried out in my NHS area?

Answer:

In the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025, NHS Lothian carried out 616 children and young people's neurodevelopmental assessments.

Question:

d) What is the estimated waiting time for assessment as at today's date in my NHS area?

Answer:

In the 12 months between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025, the average waiting time for completed children's and young people's neurodevelopmental assessment was 86 weeks.

Question:

e) Who carries out assessments in my NHS area?

f) How many individuals are qualified to carry out assessments in my NHS area?

Answer:

20 nursing staff and 18 child and adolescent psychiatrists are qualified to carry out assessments and have this as part of their job plans. 18 clinical psychologists and 21 occupational therapists are also qualified to carry out assessments across NHS Lothian. Please note that neurodevelopment assessment forms only a small part of the job plan of these staff.

Question:

g) How much has been spent on assessment in the last 12 months in my NHS area?

Answer:

Workforce and related costs for children's and young people's neurodevelopmental assessment were £1,850,617 for the year ending March 2025.

Question:

7. What is the current NHS strategy for assessment, diagnosis & support of neurodevelopmental differences in adults, children & adolescents?

Answer:

The teams are working across the system to understand demand, current access challenges around the current pathway. They continue to work to NHS Scotland waiting times governance and access arrangements. There is work being developed across the children's and adults' pathways to look at a whole system approach that allows easier access focused on Multi Disciplinary Team assessment and will transform access and assessment arrangements for those seeking support.

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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