

Date 04/08/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 10309

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SLT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to speech and language therapy (SLT).

### Question:

1. The longest waiting time for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy in May 2025.
2. In May 2025, please tell us how many people were waiting for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy. Please break this down by numbers waiting Less than 12 weeks, 12 to 18 weeks, 19 weeks to 26 weeks, 27 weeks to 52 weeks, 1 year to 2 years and over two years.
3. The longest wait for individualised therapy in May 2025.
4. Please detail the health substantive core funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2025/26.
5. Please detail the external funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2025/26. List by type of funding, i.e. core service level agreement(s) with relevant local authorities, attainment challenge, early years, pupil equity fund, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector etc.
6. Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapist **assistants** were employed in the children's speech and language therapy service in May 2025.
7. In addition, please confirm the headcount of speech and language therapy **assistants** (i.e. individual staff members, regardless of WTE) working in the same service during that period.

### Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in this response. 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).

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*

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  
Enc.

Question 1		Question 2					Question 3
<b>Waiting lists</b>							
The longest waiting time for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy in May 2025.		In May 2025, please tell us how many people were waiting for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy.					The longest wait for individualised therapy in May 2025.
		Less than 12 weeks	12 to 18 weeks	19 weeks to 26 weeks	27 to 52 weeks	1 to 2 years	over two years
20 weeks (for all teams - breakdown below)		329 (total)	56 (total)	5< (total)	0	0	0
		not routinely collected					
West Ed	7 weeks	80	0				
East Ed	20 weeks	143	56	5<			
East Lothian	12 weeks	17	0				
Midlothian	11 weeks	89	0				
West Lothian	4 weeks	0					

Question 4		Question 5	Question 6	Question 7
Budget			Staffing - SLTs	
Please detail the health substantive core funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2025/26.		Please detail the external funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2025/26. List by type of funding, i.e. core service level agreement(s) with relevant local authorities, attainment challenge, early years, pupil equity fund, 3rd Sector etc.	Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapist <b>assistants</b> were employed in the children's speech and language therapy service in May 2025.	In addition, please confirm the headcount of speech and language therapy <b>assistants</b> (i.e. individual staff members, regardless of WTE) working in the same service during that period.
2025/26 Core	substantive funding equates to £2,827k	SLA £1,347k PEF £15k 3rd sector £131K	9.49WTE	16