

Date 14/01/2026
 Your Ref
 Our Ref 10966

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
 Extension 35687
 Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS WAIT TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to CAMHS wait times.

Question:

a. The number of children waiting for the start of treatment via CAHMS for calander years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (up to present date)

Answer:

Number of Children and Young People (CYP) added to the CAMHS Treatment Waiting List	
2019	1,491
2020	1,845
2021	1,204
2022	738
2023	760
2024	1,018
2025	905

NB: 2025 uses data for the end of November 2025

Question:

b. The longest wait for children starting treatment via CAHMS for calander years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (up to present date)

Answer:

We are not able to provide the longest waiting time as this could lead to the identification of the individual patients involved. 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).

Question:

c. The average wait for children starting treatment via CAHMS for calander years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (up to present date)

Answer:

	Average Wait to Treatment (weeks) for CAMHS
2019	23.7
2020	24.1
2021	19.4
2022	21.2
2023	18.1
2024	16.8
2025	19.3

NB: 2025 includes data for January to November, inclusive.

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. 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive