

Date 03/02/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11024

Enquiries to Richard Mutch  
Extension 35687  
Direct Line 0131 465 5687  
[loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)  
[richard.mutch@nhs.scot](mailto:richard.mutch@nhs.scot)

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEURODEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT.**

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

### Question:

- Can a patient's assessment for a neurodevelopmental condition be expedited for an assessment if there is a serious comorbid mental health illness/issue and what would be the process within NHS Lothian specifically in the west Lothian area for this to be expedited.

### Answer:

I am advised that if there are concerns about a comorbid mental disorder while a patient is waiting for a Neurodevelopmental Disorder (NDD) assessment, the patient would be placed on the Psychiatry General Adult waiting list and prioritised by triage for general adult review, rather than wait to be seen via the Adult Neurodevelopmental Disorder (NDD) waiting list.

The patient may remain on the NDD waiting list to be assessed separately for autism or ADHD.

Sometimes, as part of an admission or ongoing review while under Community Mental Health Team, Acute Care and Support Team or as a psychiatric outpatient, a patient may receive a diagnosis of autism or ADHD without having to wait on the NDD waiting list.

However, we would not move people up the NDD waiting list due to a comorbid diagnosis alone, particularly if that was stable or already under treatment.

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

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*



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

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive