

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS WAITING TIMES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to waiting times for NHS Lothian's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Question:

1. For the year, 2025, please outline the median wait (in days) between the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment), where a CAMHS professional will talk to a patient and decide on how to help them, to the start of treatment.

Answer:

The latest whole year data we have for is for 2024.

Question:

2. Please also outline the longest wait (in days) between the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment) and the start of treatment.

Answer:

We are not able to provide the longest wait, as this may lead to the identification of the individual patient involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Question:

3. Please also supply the above answers for the years, 2023 and 2024.

Answer:

The median wait from assessment to treatment was 18 weeks in 2024, and 17 weeks in 2023.

Question:

4. As of January 12, 2026, please outline the number of vacancies in your health board in the following positions:

Psychologist

Neuropsychologist  
 Consultant psychiatrist  
 Psychotherapist  
 Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs)  
 Children's Wellbeing Practitioners (CWPs)

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

<b>Mental health vacancies, NHS Lothian</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
Psychologist and neuropsychologists	6.19 WTE (including 4 WTE maternity cover)
Consultant psychiatrist	3.8 WTE
Psychotherapist	0
Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs)	0
Children's Wellbeing Practitioners (CWPs)	0

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