

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONING

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

Question:

1. Current waiting lists / demand for assessments: Please provide:
 - a) The total number of people currently waiting for an adult (18+) ADHD assessment via NHS-commissioned services (including both local NHS pathways and Right to Choose providers).
 - b) The total number of people currently waiting for an adult (18+) autism assessment via NHS-commissioned services (including both local NHS pathways and Right to Choose providers).
 - c) If available separately: the number of people waiting specifically via Right to Choose referrals (or an estimate/indication of the proportion).
 - d) The same information as above, but for children and young people (under 18), if your ICB commissions or holds data for neurodevelopmental assessments in that age group via Right to Choose.
 - e) Median and longest reported waiting times (in weeks or months) for adult ADHD and adult autism assessments in your area (via any NHS-funded route, including Right to Choose).
2. Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs) or activity limits. Please provide:
 - a) Details of any current Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs), activity caps, funding limits, or restrictions applied to Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and/or autism assessments in the current financial year (or most recent period).
 - b) The total number of assessments (or indicative activity volume) allocated or agreed for Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and adult autism in the current financial year.

c) Any planned changes to IAPs, caps, or commissioning for the next financial year.

3. Commissioning of new providers. Please provide:

a) The name(s), job title(s), and direct email address(es) (or team inbox if individual contact is not available) of the person(s) or team responsible for commissioning / procuring new or additional providers for ADHD and/or autism assessment services under the Right to Choose framework.

b) Any current open procurement/framework opportunities, expressions of interest, or processes for approving new Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and/or autism assessments.

c) If no such process is currently open, the anticipated timeline for the next review or commissioning round for additional providers.

Answer:

The Right to Choose is an NHS England policy and does not apply in NHS Scotland. ADHD and ASD assessment in NHS Lothian are provided by the Health Board and not by external commissioners.

In NHS Lothian, the majority of adult patients are not on a specific ASD/ADHD waiting list. The majority of patients are on a non-specific "Neurodevelopmental Assessment" list and without reviewing each patient's clinical notes, we are unable to say whether these patients are waiting for an ASD, ADHD or other neurodevelopmental assessment.

For children and young people, there are no ASD/ADHD specific waiting lists. All patients are on non-specific "Neurodevelopmental Assessment" lists. We are therefore unable to provide an accurate figure for wait times to assessment or number of children currently waiting specifically for an ASD/ADHD assessment.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

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