

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:

Can I request the following, broken down by the calendar years 2019, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (most recent):

1. The median wait (in days) between the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment), where a CAMHS professional will talk to the child or young person who is unwell, listen to their symptoms and decide on how to help them, and the start of treatment.

Answer:

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

CAMHS waiting times, assessment to treatment, NHS Lothian	
Year	Median wait (weeks)
2019	1
2023	1
2024	1
2025	1

Question:

2. The longest wait (in days) between the initial meeting (assessment/choice appointment), where a CAMHS professional will talk to the child or young person who is unwell, listen to their symptoms and decide on how to help them, and the start of treatment.

Answer:

I am not able to provide the specific longest wait, as this information could 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.

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