

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD DIAGNOSIS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHD diagnosis in West Lothian.

Question:

In several FOI requests there are references that a ADHD diagnosis may be expedited due to comorbid mental health and or receiving a diagnosis of ADHD without having to get an assessment. What would be the actual process of expediting an ADHD assessment in West Lothian?

Answer:

There is no formal criteria or process for expediting an ADHD assessment in West Lothian. Rather, patients are prioritised for an urgent assessment if a clinician deems it clinically appropriate.

This occurs in limited circumstances, for example, if there are concerns about a comorbid mental illness while a patient is waiting for a Neurodevelopmental Disorder 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 care, or as a psychiatric outpatient, a patient may receive a diagnosis of autism ADHD without having to wait on the Neurodevelopmental Disorder waiting list.

However, we would not move people up the NDD waiting list just because of a comorbid diagnosis, 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 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
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Cc: Chief Executive