

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH

I write in response to your request for information in relation to specialist mental health services.

### Question:

1. In June 2020, the average time between the date on which a GP referred a patient to specialist NHS mental health services (*including multi-professional Community Mental Health Teams and urgent referral services such as the Mental Health Assessment Service*) on a routine/non urgent basis and the date on which the assessment took place.

### Answer:

In June 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment across all Adult Specialist Services for Routine referrals was 42.5 days

It should be noted that the IHTT service and MHAS services would not receive routine referrals.

### Question:

2. In circumstances where a referral was made on the above basis, the average time between referral and the date on which the patient was assessed at home by the Intensive Home Treatment team or a consultant psychiatrist and/or CPN.

### Answer:

In June 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment for a Routine by a consultant psychiatrist and /or a CPN was 42.5 days.

It should be noted that the IHTT service and MHAS services would not receive routine referrals.

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common  
name of Lothian Health Board*

Question:

3. In June 2020, the average time between the date on which a GP referred a patient to specialist NHS mental health services on an urgent basis and the date on which the appointment took place.

Answer:

In June 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment across all Adult Specialist Services for Urgent referrals was 0 days (i.e. less than 1 day)

Question:

4. In circumstances where a referral was made on the above basis, the average time between referral and the date on which the patient was assessed at home by the Intensive Home Treatment team or a consultant psychiatrist and/or CPN.

Answer:

In June 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment for an Urgent by an IHTT was 0 days (i.e. less than 1 day). The average (median) time to assessment by a consultant psychiatrist and /or a CPN was 11 days.

Question:

5. In June 2020, the average time between the date on which a GP referred a patient to specialist NHS mental health services on an emergency basis and the date on which the appointment took place.
6. In circumstances where a referral was made on the above basis, the average time between referral and the date on which the patient was assessed at home by the Intensive Home Treatment team or a consultant psychiatrist and/or CPN.

Answer:

We do not have an “emergency” referral triage category. Where the situation was deemed to be an emergency the referral would usually be directed to the mental health assessment service. The median wait for this service is 0 days (i.e. less than 1 day).

Question:

7. In July 2020, the average time between the date on which a GP referred a patient to specialist NHS mental health services on a routine/non urgent basis and the date on which the appointment took place.

Answer:

In July 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment across all Adult Specialist Services for Routine referrals was 46 days.

It should be noted that the IHTT service and MHAS services would not receive routine referrals.

Question:

8. In circumstances where a referral was made on the above basis, the average time between referral and the date on which the patient was assessed at home by the Intensive Home Treatment team or a consultant psychiatrist and/or CPN.

Answer:

In July 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment for a Routine by a consultant psychiatrist and /or a CPN was 46 days.

It should be noted that the IHTT service and MHAS services would not receive routine referrals.

Question:

9. In July 2020, the average time between the date on which a GP referred a patient to specialist NHS mental health services on an urgent basis and the date on which the appointment took place.

Answer:

In July 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment across all Adult Specialist Services for Urgent referrals was 0 days (i.e. less than 1 day).

Question:

10. In circumstances where a referral was made on the above basis, the average time between referral and the date on which the patient was assessed at home by the Intensive Home Treatment team or a consultant psychiatrist and/or CPN.

Answer:

In June 2020 the average (median) time from referral by a GP to 1<sup>st</sup> assessment appointment for an Urgent by an IHTT was 0 days (i.e. less than 1 day). The average (median) time to assessment by a consultant psychiatrist and /or a CPN was 7 days.

Question:

11. In July 2020, the average time between the date on which a GP referred a patient to a patient to specialist NHS mental health services on an emergency basis and the date on which the appointment took place.

Answer:

We do not have an "emergency" referral triage category. Where the situation was deemed to be an emergency the referral would usually be directed to the mental health assessment service. The median wait for this service is 0 days (i.e. less than 1 day).

Question:

12. In circumstances where a referral was made on the above basis, the average time between referral and the date on which the patient was assessed at home by the Intensive Home Treatment team or a consultant psychiatrist and/or CPN.

Answer:

Not applicable

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 [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