

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD DIAGNOSIS

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

Question:

- **Adult ADHD Assessments**

1. How many adults do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?
2. How many adults were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).
3. If an adult was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?
4. Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.

Answer:

It should be noted that the majority of adult patients are not on a specific 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 ADHD, ASD or other neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

- **Child ADHD Assessments**

5. How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?
6. How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).
7. If a child was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?
8. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.

Answer:

For children and young people, there are no 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 ADHD assessment.

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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

Referral Pathway - screening and triage - assessment waiting list - assessment appointment.

Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

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. 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