

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD AND ASD

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

Question:

- Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would like to request the following information relating to referrals for ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments within your Health Board area.

Please provide the data separately for:

1. Children and young people services
2. Adult services

Please also provide the data separately for:

- ADHD assessments
- ASD assessments

For each calendar year:

- 2024
- 2025 (to date, if full-year data are not yet available)

Please provide the following information:

Referral pathway data

1. The total number of referrals received from General Practitioners (GPs) requesting assessment for ADHD and ASD.
2. Of these referrals, the number that:
 - a. Were rejected without further screening/triage
 - b. Were accepted for screening/triage
 - c. Progressed to a full diagnostic assessment

Waiting time data

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

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

3. The average waiting time from referral receipt to initial response regarding the referral outcome (for example, acknowledgement, rejection, or acceptance).
4. The average waiting time from referral receipt to screening/triage appointment.
5. The average waiting time from referral receipt to full diagnostic assessment.

If available, please provide waiting times in:

- Mean average days/weeks
and/or
- Median waiting time

Answer:

It should be noted that the majority of adult patients are not on a specific ADHD / ASD 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.

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

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 am sorry I cannot help 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