

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GENERAL ADULT PSYCHIATRY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to General Adult Psychiatry in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Please provide data from the following financial years: 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. Please provide data for General Adult Psychiatry (ages 18-65) ONLY, excluding Psychiatry of Old Age, Forensic, CAMHS, and Learning Disability services.

Heading 1 - Access & Timelines

1. Median Wait
2. 90th Percentile Wait
3. Waiting List Size (Snapshot as of 31st March for each respective year)
4. Wait > 18 Weeks
5. Wait > 52 Weeks
6. Referral Rejection/Redirect Rate

Answer:

We are not able to provide information for previous years, as the way data has been recorded means that this would require significant new analysis. Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, we are only required to provide existing recorded information, we are not required to carry out new analysis in order to answer your questions.

I have provided the following information for patients currently waiting:

General Adult Psychiatry Current Waiting Times, NHS Lothian		
1.	Median wait	20 weeks
2.	90th percentile wait	84 weeks
3.	Waiting list size	1,730 patients, this includes some patients on more than one waiting list
4.	Waits > 18 weeks	1,004 patients
5.	Waits > 52 weeks	362 patients
6.	Referral/Redirection rate	Due to the referral process using a single point of contact for different teams, we cannot attribute referral to individual teams, so are unable to answer this question. This information is not held centrally. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Heading 2 - The Workforce (Stability & Burnout)

Question:

1. Funded Substantive Consultant Posts (WTE)
2. Vacant Substantive Posts (WTE)

Answer:

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

General Adult Psychiatry Consultant Posts, NHS Lothian		
Year	Substantive consultant posts	Vacant consultant posts
2021/22	0.80	1.74
2022/23	0.88	1.82
2023/24	1.63	0.33
2024/25	0.39	2.76
2025/26	0.43	0.67

Question:

3. Total expenditure on agency/locum doctors specifically for GAP rotas

Answer:

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

General Adult Psychiatry Medical Agency and Bank Staff spend, NHS Lothian	
Year	Spend
2020/21	£2,233,332
2021/22	£1,612,116
2022/23	£1,424,304
2023/24	£1,229,542
2024/25	£1,039,202
2025/26	£1,377,014

Question:

4. Locum Consultant Usage (WTE)

Answer:

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

Locum consultant usage, General Adult Psychiatry, NHS Lothian		
Year	Locum hours	Average WTE per week
2020/21	18,812	9.0
2021/22	9,055	4.4
2022/23	6,932	3.3
2023/24	6,727	3.2
2024/25	5,870	2.8
2025/26	4,040	1.9

Question:

5. Consultant Sickness Absence Rate (%): Specifically for GAP consultants

6. Staff Turnover Rate (%)

Answer:

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

Consultant sickness absence and staff turnover, General Adult Psychiatry, NHS Lothian		
Year	Consultant sickness absence (%)	Consultant staff turnover rate (%)
2021/22	1.85	0.42
2022/23	0.87	0.62
2023/24	3.23	0.54

Consultant sickness absence and staff turnover, General Adult Psychiatry, NHS Lothian		
Year	Consultant sickness absence (%)	Consultant staff turnover rate (%)
2024/25	0.54	0.13
2025/26	0.72	1.46

Question

Heading 3 - The CMHT Caseload (Workload)

1. Active Caseload per Consultant (WTE)

Answer:

East Lothian – in 2025/26 the consultant / psychiatry caseload was 1,780.

Edinburgh – caseload of 42.11 end April 2026.

Midlothian – there are 3.8 WTE consultants, with a total caseload of 790 patients.

West Lothian – caseload of 237, of which 209 are active and 28 are PIFU (group patient initiated follow-up). There is only one consultant covering the CMHT at present, with support from a locum doctor.

Question:

2. Active Caseload per CPN (WTE) - i.e., Total GAP Caseload / Total WTE of Band 5/6 Community Psychiatric Nurses

Answer:

East Lothian - in 2025/26 the Community Psychiatric Nurse / Community Mental Health Team caseload was 627.

Edinburgh – caseload of 42.11 end April 2026.

Midlothian – There are 7.2 WTE Community Psychiatric Nurses, with a total caseload of 146.

West Lothian – There are 7.2 WTE band 5 and 6 Community Psychiatric Nurses, with between 20 and 30 cases allocated to each.

Question:

3. Number of Patients on Care Programme Approach (CPA)

Answer:

None, the integrated care pathway is used, with support from social work colleagues.

Question:

Heading 4 - The Inpatient Ward (Safety & Flow)

1. Staffed Acute GAP Beds Available

Answer:

There are 111 acute care inpatient beds in NHS Lothian currently. Information for previous years is not collected centrally. Information may be held in historical department records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to search out records for each department over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

2. Average Bed Occupancy (%)

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26:

General Adult Psychiatry, Median bed occupancy, NHS Lothian	
Year	Median bed occupancy
2024/25	100%
2025/26	100%

Question:

3. Delayed Discharges - Number of patients in acute GAP beds medically fit for discharge awaiting community care package.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. A patient is counted once if delayed for any part of a day during each period. Some patients may appear in more than one year group. They delay includes patients waiting for care home arrangements and for support, care and equipment arrangements to live at home, and for rehousing accommodation, including sheltered housing and homeless patients.

Delayed Discharge, General Adult Psychiatry, NHS Lothian	
Year	Number of patients
2020/21	92

Delayed Discharge, General Adult Psychiatry, NHS Lothian	
Year	Number of patients
2021/22	110
2022/23	108
2023/24	85
2024/25	105
2025/26	38

Question:

4. Out of Area Placements

Answer:

Information about patients who are normally resident in NHS Lothian but are being treated outwith NHS Lothian health board is not collected centrally. We also do not have reliable data for patients from other health boards being treated in NHS Lothians. This is because the patient record is based on the patient's current address, which may change and therefore draw incorrect results when looking at historical data.

Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

5. Readmission within 28 Days (%)

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This information was not collected prior to 2023/24. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Readmissions, General Adult Psychiatry, NHS Lothian		
Year	Number of readmissions	Readmission rate
2023/24	147	11.30
2024/25	103	8.75
2025/26	71	8.14

Heading 5 - The Safety Net (Legal & Crisis)

Question:

1. Number of Emergency Detention Certificates (EDCs)
2. Use of Mental Health Act: Number of Short-Term Detention Certificates (STDCs) issued.

Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. To identify this information a number of different datasets would need to be matched, requiring significant new analysis. Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, we are only required to provide existing recorded information, we are not required to carry out new analysis in order to answer your questions. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

3. Incidents of Self-Harm/Suicide: Specifically for patients known to GAP services.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This is the number of adverse events reported in the category of 'self-harm', sub category 'suicide', by General Adult Psychiatry services hospital and community care. These are broken down by service area.

We do not record age range on our incident reporting system, so this data includes all incidents, not specifically patients aged 18-65. Information on age range will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

I have not broken this data down by year, and I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer, as due to the small numbers involved this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have 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.

Suicide incidents reported, General Adult Psychiatry, 1 April 2020 31 March 2026, NHS Lothian	
Service	Number of patients
Adult Mental Health - Acute	≤5
Adult Mental Health - Community Psychiatry	≤5
Community Mental Health Team	9
East Lothian Adult Community Mental Health Team / Psychological Therapies Service (PTS)	13
Mental Health Service - Community Mental Health Team	31
Mental Health Service - Thrive Welcome Team(s)	≤5
Mental Health Assessment Service	7
Midlothian Joint Mental Health Team (includes IHTT)	10

Question:

4. Outpatient DNA Rate (%): Percentage of patients who Did Not Attend their GAP appointment.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. This includes all appointment types, for new and return patients.

Did Not Attend Rate, General Adult Psychiatry	
Year	Did Not Attend (%)
2020/21	8.1%
2021/22	10.3%
2022/23	10.7%
2023/24	10.5%
2024/25	10.2%
2025/26	12.3%

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive