

Date: 18/08/2026
Our Ref: 11715
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADULT SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to adult speech and language therapy in NHS Lothian.

I have enclosed the completed spreadsheet as requested.

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
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive

	Question 1											
	Waiting Lists											
	How many adults were waiting for initial contact on 1st May 2025						How many adults were waiting for initial contact on 1st May 2026					
	Less than 12 weeks	over 12 weeks	19 weeks to 26	27 to 52 weeks	1 to 2 years	over two years	Less than 12 weeks	over 12 weeks	19 weeks to 26	27 to 52 weeks	1 to 2 years	over two years
Community	202	27	Not recorded				203	78	Not recorded			
ALD	47	12	Not recorded				38	10	Not recorded			
Acute	142	142	Not recorded				115	134	Not recorded			

Question 2		Question 3		Question 4
		Budget		Staffing - SLTs
The longest waiting time for initial contact for adults speech and language therapy on 1 st May		What was the overall budget for the community adult speech and language therapy service in the financial years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.		Please confirm how many whole SLTs were employed in the community adult service on 1 st May 2026.
2025	2026	2025/26	2026/27	2025
36 weeks	30 weeks	1,251,033	1,512,416	20.6
30 weeks	32 weeks	788,985	927,028	11.7
54 weeks	55 weeks	1,487,178	1,644,392	22.9

Question 4	Question 5		Question 6	
			Staffing - SLTAs	
Whole time equivalent (WTE) staff were employed in the community adult service on 1st May 2025 and 1st May 2026	In addition, please confirm the headcount of qualified speech and language therapists (i.e. individual staff members, regardless of WTE) working in the same service during that period.		Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapist assistants were employed in the community adult service on 1st May 2025 and 1st May 2026	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
19.9	26	24	1.6	1.6
12.3	18	18	0.7	0.7
21.4	29	26	2.8	2.4

Question 7

In addition, please confirm the headcount of speech and language therapy assistants (i.e. individual staff members, regardless of WTE) working in the same service during that period.

2025	2026
	2
	1
	3