

Date 18 August 2026
Our Ref 11717

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – SLT

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

Question:

1. The longest waiting time for initial contact* for children and young people's speech and language therapy on 1st May 2026 (or as close to this date as possible).
2. On 1st May 2026, please tell us how many people were waiting for initial contact* for children and young people's speech and language therapy. Please break this down by numbers waiting:
 - Less than 12 weeks
 - 12 to 18 weeks
 - 19 weeks to 26 weeks
 - 27 weeks to 52 weeks
 - 1 year to 2 years
 - Over two years
3. The longest wait for individualised therapy on 1st May 2026.
4. Please detail the health substantive core funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2026/27.
5. Please detail the external funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2026/27. List by type of funding, i.e. core service level agreement(s) with relevant local authorities, attainment challenge, early years, pupil equity fund, 3rd Sector etc.
6. Please confirm the number of whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapists employed in the children's speech and language therapy service as of 1st May 2026.
7. 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.
8. Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapist assistants were employed in the children's speech and language therapy service on 1st May 2026.

9. 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

Answer:

Please see enclosed 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 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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.

Question 1

Question 2

Waiting lists							
The longest waiting time for initial contact* for children and young people’s speech and language therapy on 1st May 2026 (or as close to this date as possible).	On 1st May 2026, please tell us how many people were waiting for initial contact* for children and young people’s speech and language therapy.						The longest wait for indi
	Less than 12 weeks	12 to 18 weeks	19 weeks to 26 weeks	27 to 52 weeks	1 to 2 years	over two years	
22 weeks	180	52	38	0	0	0	20 weeks

Question 3	Question 4	
individualised therapy on 1st May 2026.	Budget	
	Please detail the health substantive core funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2026/27.	Please detail the external funding committed for therapy for the current business year – 2026/27 agreement(s) with relevant local authorities, at Sector etc.
	£4,800,254	The total anticipated income for the SLT service This income is derived from the following sources: Income Type and Total Value Service Level Agreements (SLAs) -£1,388,428 Secondments - £226,798 PEF Funding - £12,000

Question 5	Question 6	Question 7
for children and young people's speech and language. List by type of funding, i.e. core service level maintenance challenge, early years, pupil equity fund, 3rd	Staffing - SLTs Please confirm the number of whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapists employed in the children's speech and language therapy service as of 1st May 2026.	In addition, please confirm the headcount of qualified speech and language therapists (i.e. individual members, regardless of WTE) working in the service during that period.
in the 2026/27 financial year is £1,615,226.58. es:	74.08	95

Question 8

Question 9

	Staffing - SLTAs	
ialified staff me service	Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) speech and language therapist assistants were employed in the children's speech and language therapy service on 1st May 2026.	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.
	9.14	14