

Date 24 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11720

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PAEDIATRIC NEURODEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Services.

Question:

1. Confirmation of what exactly the board's Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Service does.
I understand boards have this service that is considered separately to CAMHS. Please specify the patient age range it focuses on and the conditions it focuses on.

Answer:

There is no standalone paediatric neurodevelopmental service within NHS Lothian. Community paediatrics and CAMHS, alongside AHP colleagues, provide support for, and assessment of, neurodevelopmental disorders. Roughly speaking; community paediatrics assesses child development in children aged 0-7 years and this may include assessment for autism. CAMHS provides assessment of ADHD and Autism and typically assess / provide support for patients aged 5-17 years.

Question:

2. Confirmation of whether or not there is a standard wait target for children to begin receiving treatment/support from the board's Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Service.

In other words, is there a standard waiting time target that the health board tries to meet like they do with the CAMH's 18 week target?

Answer:

There is no standalone paediatric neurodevelopmental service within NHS Lothian. This means there is not an overarching wait target for neurodevelopmental services specifically. The community paediatrics service and CAMHS have reportable waiting times; these services are expected to deliver a new patient assessment within 12 weeks or referral.

Question:

3. The longest recorded wait (in days or weeks) for a person to begin treatment/support from the Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Service.

- By longest wait I mean the longest wait (in days) that an individual had out of everyone who had waited to treatment/support
- Please provide the longest wait per year for the last six years (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026).
- Please provide this information in a very clear way and state the number of weeks or days very clearly.
- For example a table that shows the longest wait per year and should allow someone see clearly that for example 'the longest an individual waited in X year was Y days.
- Please also confirm if that person is still waiting or they have eventually started having the support.

Answer:

It is not possible to provide detail in relation to single longest waits as this carries a high risk of re-identification. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Question:

4. The total number of people currently on a waiting list to access Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Service. If possible please also provide a breakdown of how many people within that number have been waiting
- (i) Over 1 year
 - (ii) Over 2 years
 - (iii) Over 3 years
 - (iv) Over 4 years

Answer:

	CAMHS	Community Paediatrics
On True Wait list (as of 26/08/2026)	12,876	753
Waiting over 1 year (>52 weeks)	9,429	138
Waiting over 2 years (>104 weeks)	5,943	0
Waiting over 3 years (>156 weeks)	2,765	0
Waiting over 4 years (>208 weeks)	523	0

Question:

5. The current average wait for a person to access the Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Service.

Answer:

	CAMHS	Community Paediatrics
On True Wait list (as of 26/08/2026)	100 weeks	30 weeks

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