

Date 10 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11831

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS REFERRALS

I write in response to your request for information in relation CAMHS referrals.

Question:

- How many referrals have been made to CAMHS from GP for primary school aged children in each of the years 2022/23/24/25 & 26 so far?

Answer:

Referral category	Referral Year (FY)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Primary School Age	972	1,313	1,243	1,175	460
Secondary School Age	1,806	2,027	1,934	2,123	809

Table 1: GP referrals to CAMHS by age category & year

Note: Data for 2026/2027 financial year is up to the end of august 2026.

Question:

- Of these referrals, how many were not accepted by CAMHS and referred back to primary care (GP)?

Answer:

Referral Category	Referral Year (FY)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Primary School Age	312	278	261	338	141
Secondary School Age	453	302	241	353	127

Table 2: GP referrals to CAMHS which were not accepted and referred back to GP, by age category & year

Note: Data for 2026/2027 financial year is up to the end of august 2026.

Question:

- How many referrals to CAMHS were made from GP for secondary school aged children in the years 2022/23/24/25 and 26 so far?

Answer:

See Table 1

Question:

4. Of these referrals, how many were not accepted by CAMHS and referred back to primary care?

Answer:

See table 2

Question:

5. Of the referrals that were accepted, what was the average number of appointments with were attended prior to being discharged?

Answer:

It is not possible to give this information for the exact cohort of patients in the previous tables but for patients who did start treatment in those financial years and have been discharged the average attended appointments are detailed in the table below.

	Year of 1st Attended Treatment Appointment (FY)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Average attended appointments for discharged patients	11.1	11.2	10.7	7.6	3.9

Table 3: Average attended appointments for patients first seen by financial year

Note: the figures for financial years 2025/26 & 2026/2027 are lower due to less patients seen having been discharged yet. If the analysis were to be repeated in the future we would expect the average appointments to be similar to the previous financial years.

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