

Date 28 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11870

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEURODEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question:

I would be grateful if you could provide us with a broad indication of the current position, particularly in relation to children in the East Lothian/Lothian area (clarification East Lothian). It would be helpful to understand:

1. The current approximate waiting time for children awaiting a neurodevelopmental assessment;
2. Whether waiting times differ between autism, ADHD and wider neurodevelopmental assessments;
3. Approximately how many children are currently waiting, if this information is available;
4. Whether there is currently a significant backlog within the service;
5. Whether families are given any indication of their likely assessment timescale once they are placed on the waiting list; and
6. What support is available to children and families while they are waiting.

Answer:

1.	The median adjusted time spent waiting of those currently waiting for assessment (as of end of August 2026) is 99 weeks (East Lothian)
2.	NHS Lothian does not hold this information. For children & young people, there are no ASD/ADHD specific waiting lists. All patients are on non-specific "Neurodevelopmental Assessment" lists. We are therefore unable to provide an accurate figure for wait times to assessment or number of children currently waiting specifically for an ASD assessment.
3.	Current waits (as of end of August 2026) for assessment: N= 1,575 (East Lothian)
4.	As per figures above.
5.	We do not routinely advise of waiting times as we are not able to accurately predict the waiting times due to very significant variation in the number of people being added to the waiting list. We do provide information regarding where the top of the list currently is – ie that we are

	currently picking up referrals of people who were referred on 'x' date, but we provide a caveat that this will not accurately predict how long that list is.
6.	Local authority areas may have a range of resources available local to each family. NHS Lothian has a website which signposts to a range of supports. This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information otherwise accessible (1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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