Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
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Date 20 October 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11918

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CAMHS

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

Question:

- The operating hours of CAMHS Meadows, Meadows West Lothian and the CAMHS Tier 3 and Tier 4 services identified in your response, including evening, weekend and public-holiday availability.

Answer:

All CAMHS Out-patient locality and specialist teams, including tier 3 and tier 4 work Monday - Friday 9-5.

The exceptions are:
The Regional Inpatient unit - is 24/7 including public holidays. CAMHS Unscheduled care provides 24/7 cover each day (Including Public holidays) except on Thursday and Fridays which is day time only, 07.30- 20.30.

There is a 24/7 on call psychiatry rota in NHS Lothian.
CAMHS assertive Outreach is Monday - Friday 9-5 but is also open on Public Holidays.

Question:

- Outside those hours, what NHS-provided or commissioned service or pathway is available to a neurodivergent child under 18 experiencing an acute trauma-related crisis, suicidal distress or risk of self-harm?

Answer:

CAMHS Unscheduled Care, CAMHS On-call Psychiatry rota.

Question:

- For any such provision, please provide its age criteria, access/referral route, hours of availability, and whether specialist CAMHS advice or assessment is available during those hours. Please make clear any differences in provision for children under 16 and those aged 16–17.

Answer:

Provision is detailed above.

Unscheduled care and on-call Psychiatry rota can be contacted by GP's or other professionals using NHS Lothian switchboard or mobile pager. Age criteria 5-18. Over 16's will be assessed in Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, under 16's in Royal hospital for Children and Young people. Those living in West Lothian can be assessed in St. John's hospital.

The Unscheduled care team are all CAMHS Specialist Nurses. The on-call psychiatry rota includes core trainees and CAMHS higher trainees and there is 24/7 access to a CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist.

Question:

- Any recorded arrangements enabling children who cannot provide a detailed verbal account, or cannot use telephone-based support, to access that out-of-hours provision, including available communication adaptations.

Answer:

There is no specific provision in out of hours care, staff would use their specialist CAMHS skills, take detailed a history from parent or care givers (with consent) or make follow up calls. Detailed risk assessments are carried out which include reviewing any historic information on the patient record.

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