Lothian NHS Board

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Date: 20/10/2026
Our Ref: 11950
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEURODEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to neurodevelopment waiting times in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. As at 22 July 2026 you reported combined neurodevelopmental figures (ADHD and autism together) of adults 177 weeks median / 12,769 waiting, and under-18 (CAMHS) 141.5 weeks median / 12,275 waiting. I request the current equivalent of those four figures, on the same combined basis, as at the most recent date for which data is held.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Neurodevelopment assessment current waiting list, NHS Lothian	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Adults Service
Median waiting time	139 weeks	175 weeks
Number of patients	12,562	13,253

Question:

2. For the adult list and the under-18 list: the longest current wait of anyone on the list, and the number who have currently waited more than two years.

Answer:

I am not able to release the exact longest waits, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

The number of patients currently waiting who have waited more than two years is detailed in the table below:

Patients currently waiting more than 2 years for neurodevelopmental assessment, NHS Lothian	
Service	**Number of patients**
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	6,205
Adults Service	7,315

Question:

3. The number of neurodevelopmental assessments completed in the most recent 12 months for which data is held, for adults and for under-18s.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Neurodevelopmental assessment, number of completed waits, September 2025-August 2026, NHS Lothian	
Service	**Number of patients**
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	561
Adults Service	537

Question:

4. If ADHD and autism referrals can now be reported separately, the separated figures; if not, no breakdown is requested.

Answer:

ADHD and autism referrals cannot currently be reported separately.

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 https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive