Lothian NHS Board

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Date: 19/11/2026
Our Ref: 12090
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – ADHD AND ASD ASSESSMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to ADHD and ASD assessment in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. How many patients have currently started and are undergoing assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorder under CAMHS?

2. How many patients have currently started and are undergoing assessment for ADHD under CAMHS?

Answer:

Neurodevelopmental assessment is carried out for diagnosis of both ADHD and Autism Spectrum disorder in NHS Lothian. We are not able to report numbers of patients separately for these two conditions. Currently 1,063 patients have started neurodevelopmental assessment in CAMHS. These are patients who have attended an appointment in the past 6 months and who have not yet been discharged from treatment.

Question:

3. How many Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis have been given in CAMHS in the 12 months prior to 30th September 2026?

4. How many ADHD diagnoses have been given in CAMHS in the 12 months prior to 30th September 2026?

Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. Using our electronic patient management system, we can report on numbers of patients attending specific clinics or services, but we are not able to relate this to diagnosis. Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

5. How many patients are currently on the waiting list for intake to CAMHS for the Neurodevelopmental Assessment list?

Answer:

There are currently 12,707 patients waiting for neurodevelopmental assessment.

Question

6. Is the Neurodevelopment waiting list at CAMHS currently accepting new patients?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

7. How many patients have undertaken an initial intake or choice appointment and are now on the waiting list for Neurodevelopmental assessment?

Answer:

Of those currently waiting for an assessment appointment there are 6,069 patients who have had a choice appointment at some point.

Question:

8. How long is the current wait from intake appointment to Neurodevelopmental assessment? For example Edinburgh South CAMHS are currently starting to see patients for Neurodevelopmental assessment who joined the waiting list in November 2021 following an intake appointment (correct as of September 2026)

Answer:

Based on 506 completed neurodevelopment assessments in the last six months, the median waiting times was 43.5 weeks. This includes patients added directly to the neurodevelopmental assessment waiting list and patients added following a choice appointment.

Question:

9. Following ADHD Assessment, how long is the wait to see a professional to discuss and receive medication for ADHD?

Answer:

Based on 64 completed neurodevelopmental medication waits in the last six months, the median waiting times is 28.5 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 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