

Henry Shelford  
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Dear Henry Shelford,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: FOI/0010356

We have dealt with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. For ease of reference, we have copied your request below:

***I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 for the following information regarding ADHD assessments within NHS Forth Valley.***

**Adult ADHD Assessments**

***1. How many adults do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?***

Response: NHS Forth Valley is unable to confirm how many adults are currently waiting specifically for an ADHD diagnosis, as we do not operate condition-specific mental health pathways.

Providing this information would require a manual review of a large number of individual records and would exceed the cost limit for responding under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This part of your request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Act.

***2. How many adults were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).***

Response: NHS Forth Valley is not able to determine how many adults were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year as we do not operate condition-specific pathways.

Providing this information would require a manual review of a substantial number of individual records and would exceed the cost limit for responding to a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This part of your request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Act.

***3. If an adult was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?***

Response: NHS Forth Valley Integrated Community Mental Health Teams' standard operating procedure advises that all referrals to secondary care mental health services will be reviewed within 12 weeks of receipt.

#### **4. Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.**

Response: NHS Forth Valley does not operate condition specific pathways for ADHD - Patients who may wish to be formally assessed for neurodevelopmental conditions (ADHD, Autism, FASD, etc.) can access this as part of their broad holistic mental health assessment where they meet standard criteria for a particular service.

Accordingly, under section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), I must advise you that the information you have requested is not held by the organisation.

#### **Child ADHD Assessments**

#### **5. How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?**

Response: NHS Forth Valley can confirm that the current waiting lists for young people, which include those who may be awaiting assessment or diagnosis of ADHD, are as follows:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS): 369
- Paediatric Neurodevelopment Service (PNDS): 3,572

However, we are unable to specify how many of these children are waiting specifically for an ADHD diagnosis. Our current digital system does not record waiting list information at a level of detail that would allow us to identify those cases separately.

To obtain this information would require a manual review of a substantial number of individual records, which would exceed the cost threshold for responding to a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Accordingly, this part of your request is exempt under Section 12 of the Act.

#### **6. How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).**

Response: NHS Forth Valley can confirm that the following numbers of young people were seen between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, some of whom may have received an ADHD assessment:

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS): 753

- Paediatric Neurodevelopment Service (PNDS): 45

However, we cannot confirm exactly how many of these children received an ADHD assessment, as our current digital system does not record diagnosis information in enough detail to identify those cases separately.

Providing this information would require a manual review of a substantial number of individual records, which would exceed the cost limit under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This part of your request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Act.

#### **7. If a child was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?**

Response: For an initial appointment with the Paediatric Neurodevelopment Services (PNDS) this equates more than 3 years.

For Child Adolescent Mental Health Services NHS Forth Valley are currently meeting the Referral to Treatment (RTT) and therefore a child or young person would be seen within 18wks for an initial appointment at this time.

#### **8. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.**

Response: Where a young person has been referred and identified as requiring an assessment for ADHD prior to their initial appointment, a member of staff will contact the young person's parent or carer to gather a developmental history, obtain consent to contact the school, and issue rating scales to both school and home.

The information will be collated and made available to the assessing clinician(s) at the initial assessment appointment.

If there is sufficient information indicating ADHD at the conclusion of the initial ap-appointment, a diagnosis may be made. If further information is required, follow-up appointments will be arranged to complete the assessment. Where appropriate, a school observation may also be undertaken.

The process may vary depending on the individual circumstances of the child or young person, for example where other neurodevelopmental difficulties have also been identified.

We hope this is of assistance. If you are unhappy with the way we have dealt with your request, you are entitled to request a review. You have 40 working days upon receipt of this response to ask for a review. You can request a review by email to: [fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot) or writing to us at: Information Governance Department, NHS Forth Valley, Carseview House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4SW.

If you wish to request a review, please state:

- That you are asking for a review, and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you then have the right to ask the Scottish Information Commissioner for advice and assistance or a formal appeal. You must submit an appeal to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving our review response. You can submit an appeal via the Scottish Information Commissioner's website: [www.foi.scot/appeal](http://www.foi.scot/appeal) or by writing to: Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS. You can also contact the Commissioner by telephone: 01334 464610

Please feel free to contact us should you require any further advice or assistance regarding our handling of your request or your review and appeal rights.

Yours sincerely

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