

Date: 29/05/2026

Our ref: FOI 12232

Enquiries to: Fife FOI Officer

Direct line: 01383 565194 | Extension: 35194 | Email: fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot

Dear Mr Shelford,

Thank you for your information request, made on 06/05/2026, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

NHS Fife has completed a full and exhaustive search for information held in relation to your request and can provide the following response.

Request:

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

Adult ADHD Assessments

1. How many adults do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?
2. How many adults were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).
3. If an adult was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?
4. Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.

Child ADHD Assessments

5. How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?
6. How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).
7. If a child was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?
8. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.

Response:

On review of this request, Sections 12 and 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 has been applied in accordance with statutory requirements. Further information and resources on exemptions within the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, can be found in section 1.0 Appendixes and Resources.

Exemption:

Section 12 – Excessive cost of compliance.

Section 17 – Information not held.

Applied:

Section 12 has been applied to questions 1 and 2.
Section 17 has been partially applied to question 6.

Exemption Rationale:

Section 12 has been applied to questions 1 and 2 as the estimated cost of identifying, locating and retrieving the requested information exceeds the £600 statutory limit. Public authorities are not required to comply with requests above this threshold. A calculation has been provided below.

Section 17 has been partially applied to question 6 as part of the information requested is not available due to the way it is recorded in the electronic patient record system.

Guide to Exemption:

[FeesandExcessiveCostofComplianceBriefing.pdf](#)

[BriefingSection17Informationnotheld.pdf](#)

Adult ADHD Assessments

1. NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Complex and Critical Care Adult Mental Health Service does not have a specific ADHD/ASD/Neurodevelopmental pathway. Patients referred for Adult ADHD assessment are referred under the standard process of all referrals to the NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Mental Health Service. Reason for referral or assessment type/condition is not specifically recorded electronically and therefore not available to extract.

A manual review of individual cases to confirm and extract the number of Adult ADHD referrals, wait times and assessments information would cost NHS Fife in excess of £600 to collate the information requested, therefore, under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this information is not provided.

It is likely to require at least 714 hours of work to complete this activity, plus the time to collate the response.

The approximate cost is estimated at 714 hours x £15 = £10,710.00. This exceeds the upper limit of £600

(Approx 8570 records require to be manually checked to obtain the information requested)

8570 records to be checked

8570 (records)/12 records per hour = 714 hours

714 x £15.00 (hourly rate) = £10.710.00.

2. NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Complex and Critical Care Adult Mental Health Service does not have a specific ADHD/ASD/Neurodevelopmental pathway. Patients referred for Adult ADHD assessment are referred under the standard process of all referrals to the NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Mental Health Service. Reason for referral or assessment type/condition is not specifically recorded electronically and therefore not available to extract.

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3. NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Complex and Critical Care Adult Mental Health Service endeavor to meet the 18-week referral to treatment target however this varies between sectors.
4. As above, NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Complex and Critical Care Adult Mental Health Service does not have a specific ADHD/Neurodevelopmental Assessment pathway and any patient referrals for assessment are seen as part of the wider adult mental health community mental health team if they meet the threshold for this service.

Adult secondary care Mental Health Services see all patients regardless of their presenting complaint provided they meet criteria for specialist mental health services. These state that:

1. There must be evidence of significant risks associated with the mental health issue
2. And/or significant levels of disability.

All patients who meet criteria for services are offered a generic mental health assessment and more specific further assessment as indicated. Where the patient history, symptoms and associated impairments are suggestive of a neurodevelopmental disorder (NDD) contributing to the overarching mental health presentation, a neurodevelopmental approach, rather than a condition specific approach is taken. This is because of the considerable co morbidity and symptom overlap within NDD.

Child ADHD Assessments

5. As of 31 March 2026, there are 287 children waiting for ADHD assessment across Tier 2 Community Paediatrics and Tier 3 ADHD Multidisciplinary team (MDT).
6. NHS Fife does not hold the information requested. Tier 2 Community Paediatrics, ADHD assessment would be undertaken in a 'Return' out-patient appointment. Due

to the undifferentiated way 'Return' out-patient appointments are recorded on the patient administration system, this information cannot be extracted. In Tier 3 ADHD MDT 149 assessments took place.

7. This depends on the clinical presentation and area:
 - A child referred to Tier 2 Community Paediatrics would expect to be seen within 6-8 months
 - A child referred to Tier 3 ADHD MDT would expect to be seen within 12-24 months, for psychiatry this would be within 4 months.

8. For Tier 2 Community Paediatrics, children aged 5 and above are referred by the Education service to the Fife Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) (<https://www.moodcafe.co.uk/welcome-to-fife-s-neurodevelopmental-hub/>) where the referral is then vetted to the most appropriate ADHD / Assessment service. Children under 5 can be directly referred to Community Paediatrics via their GP. For Tier 3 ADHD MDT, all referrals are managed through the Fife NDP. The Fife NDP can be summarised as follows:
 1. Request for assistance into the Fife Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) ([Mood Cafe | Welcome to Fife's Neurodevelopmental Hub](#))
 2. Triaged
 3. Forwarded for ADHD assessment if indicated
 4. Added to ADHD waiting list
 5. Seen for assessment/diagnosis
 6. Seen for follow-up care/medication titration and management

For full description of the Fife ADHD pathway, please see attached document.

On behalf of NHS Fife, we hope this information is helpful. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of this request, you have the right to request a review.

If you require this information in another language or format (e.g. Braille, audio, large print) please contact the Equality and Human Rights Team at:

Email: fife.EqualityandHumanRights@nhs.scot
Phone: 01592 729130.

Alternatively, you can also contact the team via the NHS Fife SMS text service number on 07805800005 or call using ContactScotlandBSL for BSL-users.

Please find further information on requests reviews in 1.0 Appendixes and Resources.

Kind Regards,

The NHS Fife FOI Team
fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot

Appendixes and Resources

1.0 Request Reviews

Requests for review must be made in writing, setting out the reasons for seeking a review. and must be received within **40 working days** of the date you received this response.

The review will be carried out by a senior member of staff who was not involved in the original decision. Following the review, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to apply to the **Scottish Information Commissioner** for a decision.

Further information on request reviews can be accessed via the Scottish Information Commissioner website: [Asking the authority for a review | Scottish Information Commissioner](#)

2.0 NHS Fife Model Publication Scheme

NHS Fife's Model Publication Scheme, guide to information – aims to ensure and promote transparency, accountability and openness through proactively publishing information in line with the classification set out by the Scottish Information Commissioner.

NHS Fife Model Publication Scheme can be accessed via the organisation's website: [Guide to Information available through the Model Publication Scheme | NHS Fife](#)

3.0 NHS Fife Freedom of Information Policy

NHS Fife's Freedom of Information Policy GP/F1 Freedom of Information policy can be accessed via the organisation's website: [Freedom of Information | NHS Fife](#)

4.0 Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, can be accessed on the below link: [Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002](#)

5.0 Guide to Exemptions

Briefing notes and guidance on exemptions can be accessed on the links below:

Scottish Information Commissioner Office guidance: [Briefings and guidance | Scottish Information Commissioner](#)

Scottish Information Commissioner Office exemption briefings: [FOISA exemptions | Scottish Information Commissioner](#)