

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Date 9 October 2026  
Your Ref FOI-2026-3512  
Our Ref FOI-2026-3512

Enquiries to [REDACTED]  
Email [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot)

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3512**

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 29 September 2026 requesting the following information:

**Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding autism assessment pathways for children and young people (under 18) across NHS Scotland.**

**1. Current Waiting List**

- The number of children currently on the waiting list for autism assessment.
- Please provide this breakdown by each NHS Scotland territorial board.

**2. Waiting Times**

- The average waiting time for a first autism assessment.
- Please provide this separately for each NHS board.
- If available, please also include:
  - Median wait time
  - Longest wait time
  - Shortest wait time
  - 90th percentile wait time

**3. Trend Data**

**For the past five years (or as far back as records allow):**

- Number of children on the waiting list at quarterly intervals
- Average waiting time for first assessment at the same intervals
- Any significant changes in service delivery or criteria during this period

#### **4. Completed Assessments**

**For the most recent full year:**

- **Number of autism assessments completed**
- **Average time from referral to final diagnostic outcome**
- **Please break this down by NHS board**

#### **5. Age Breakdown**

**If held:**

- **Number of children on the waiting list split into age groups (e.g., 0–5, 6–11, 12–17)**

#### **6. Referral Source**

**If available:**

- **GP referrals**
- **School or educational referrals**
- **CAMHS referrals**
- **Other referral pathways**

#### **7. Staffing and Capacity**

**For each NHS board:**

- **Number of clinicians qualified to carry out autism assessments**
- **Number of vacancies within neurodevelopmental services**
- **Any planned service expansions or recruitment initiatives**

#### **8. Definitions and Data Quality**

**Please provide:**

- **The definition used for “waiting list” (e.g., from referral, from triage, from acceptance into pathway)**
- **Whether the data refers to autism specific assessments or combined neurodevelopmental pathways**
- **Any limitations or caveats associated with the data**

After a search of our electronic and paper records I can confirm that under [Section 17 of FOISA for “Information not held”](#) PSD Scotland does not hold the information that you have requested. PSD Scotland is not NHSScotland and do not hold records on behalf of the other Health Boards within NHSScotland.

In order to obtain the most up to date information from a local NHSScotland Health Board level we suggest that you contact each of the Health Boards that provide Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) directly using the email addresses listed below, as under the terms of FOISA we are unable to transfer this request on your behalf.

|                             |                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NHS Ayrshire & Arran        | <a href="mailto:foi@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk">foi@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk</a>                           |
| NHS Borders                 | <a href="mailto:foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk">foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk</a>   |
| NHS Dumfries & Galloway     | <a href="mailto:dg.feedback2@nhs.scot">dg.feedback2@nhs.scot</a>                           |
| NHS Fife                    | <a href="mailto:fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot">fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot</a>             |
| NHS Forth Valley            | <a href="mailto:fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot">fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot</a>     |
| NHS Grampian                | <a href="mailto:gram.foi@nhs.scot">gram.foi@nhs.scot</a>                                   |
| NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde | <a href="mailto:foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk">foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk</a>                               |
| NHS Highland                | <a href="mailto:nhsh.foirequestshighland@nhs.scot">nhsh.foirequestshighland@nhs.scot</a>   |
| NHS Lanarkshire             | <a href="mailto:foi@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">foi@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>               |
| NHS Lothian                 | <a href="mailto:loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot">loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot</a> |
| NHS Orkney                  | <a href="mailto:ORK.FOIrequests@nhs.scot">ORK.FOIrequests@nhs.scot</a>                     |
| NHS Shetland                | <a href="mailto:shet.foi@nhs.scot">shet.foi@nhs.scot</a>                                   |
| NHS Tayside                 | <a href="mailto:tay.foisa@nhs.scot">tay.foisa@nhs.scot</a>                                 |
| NHS Western Isles           | <a href="mailto:wi.infogov-wihb@nhs.scot">wi.infogov-wihb@nhs.scot</a>                     |

Another source of information would be Public Health Scotland (PHS) as PHS collects, quality assures and analyses a number of national datasets that are used to monitor waiting times.

PHS works collaboratively with other NHS boards to ensure the data are accurate and comprehensive and that waiting times are measured in line with [Scottish Government guidance](#).

The PHS FOI team can be contacted using the email address [phs.foi@phs.scot](mailto:phs.foi@phs.scot)

The latest PHS CAMHS publication for the quarter ending June 2026 can be found at the URL below:

[Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services \(CAMHS\) waiting times - Quarter ending June 2026](#)

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot)

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Corporate Governance using the email address [psd.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:psd.foi@nhs.scot) within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

