

Freedom of Information request 622-18

Request

May I request the following information for FOI, please:

1. What is your current autism waiting time (average, shortest, longest) referral to diagnosis for children?
2. Can you break this down to referral to first appointment and give the waiting time (average, shortest, longest)?
3. How many children are awaiting diagnosis currently? Please can you break down the number of children with a booked future appointment and those waiting without an appointment?
4. Can you provide a copy of the diagnosis pathway, please?

Response

1. The average current time from referral to diagnosis is 35 weeks; this includes the full multidisciplinary assessment process, involving assessments in a classroom setting, interviews with parents and teachers and observation of the child by a range of different professional staff.
2. This information is not held electronically and would require a manual trawl of all patient records. The cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.
3. There are 65 children awaiting diagnosis, 62 new and 3 reviews. The request regarding booked appointments and those waiting would require a review of every patient record and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.
4. Please find attached below a copy of NHS Borders' diagnosis pathway:



Autism Pathway.pdf

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **622-18** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the

Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle,
Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.