

Freedom of Information request 202-23

Request

How many months on average is the wait between GP referral and initial assessment for ADHD in your health board as of 1 March 2023?

I would also be grateful for this data for 1 March 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

Response

NHS Borders are unable to provide the length of time patients have waited between GP referral and initial assessment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Under Section 15 (Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please find below the explanation for this.

NHS Borders has two separate streams for ADHD assessment: adults over 18 and children under 18 years of age.

Adult patients only come on to the waiting list for ADHD if they have a co-morbidity as well as potential ADHD and therefore meet the criteria for secondary care. If they have potential undiagnosed ADHD only, they are given a self-help resource pack and discharged so do not appear on the waiting list, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For children under 18 we cannot provide the average waits for referrals by a GP for an ADHD assessment, cases are only classed as neurodevelopmental assessments. The neurodevelopmental assessment could be for other reasons than ADHD, e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Learning Disability (LD). We cannot extract referrals for ADHD assessment only. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

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 **202-23** 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.