

Freedom of Information request 470-23

Request

1. The longest waiting time for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy in May 2023.
2. In May 2023, please tell us how many people were waiting for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy. Please break this down by numbers waiting Less than 12 weeks, 12 to 18 weeks, 19 weeks to 26 weeks, 27 weeks to 52 weeks, 1 year to 2 years and over two years.
3. The longest waiting time for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy in May 2019, May 2020, May 2021, May 2022.
4. The longest wait for individualised therapy in May 2023.
5. The longest wait for individualised therapy in May 2019, May 2020. May 2021 and May 2022.
6. Please detail the health and social care substantive core funding for children and young people's speech and language therapy in the last five business years - 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23.
7. Please detail the health and social care substantive core funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2023/24.
8. Please detail the external funding for children and young people's speech and language therapy in the last five business years - 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23. List by type of funding, ie core service level agreement(s) with relevant local authorities, attainment challenge, early years, pupil equity fund, 3rd Sector etc.
9. Please detail the external funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2023/24. List by type of funding, ie core service level agreement(s) with relevant local authorities, attainment challenge, early years, pupil equity fund, 3rd Sector etc.

In answering the above questions, 'children and young people's speech and language therapy' should not include speech and language therapy input within NDD or CAMHS. Waiting time and funding data for these can be provided but please separate out.

Please can this information be provided in the format of data tables including any explanation notes needed to understand the data and explanation of any codes used to identify the data. If any of the data requested is unavailable or incomplete, please can you provide an explanation as to why this is the case.

Response

1. The longest waiting time for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy in May 2023 was 10 weeks.
2. There were 22 people waiting < 12 weeks for initial contact for children and young people's speech and language therapy. No one waited longer than 12 weeks for initial contact.

3. This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
4. The longest wait for individualised therapy in May 2023 was 91 weeks.
5. This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
6. The budget is provided by the overall Speech and Language Therapy Service and therefore the Health and Social Care substantive core funding for children and young people's speech and language therapy in the last five business years - 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
7. The budget is provided by the overall Speech and Language Therapy Service and therefore the Health and Social Care substantive core funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year – 2023/24, is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
8. The external funding for children and young people's speech and language therapy in the last five business years was:
 - 18/19 - £166,637
 - 19/20 - £166,637
 - 20/21 - £152,637
 - 22/23 - £138,637All above are Education Contract with Scottish Borders Council.
9. The external funding committed for children and young people's speech and language therapy for the current business year 23/24 is £138,637 – Education Contract with Scottish Borders Council.

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 **470-23** 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.