

9 October 2023

Freedom of Information request 686-23

Request

I am keen to understand how long patients are waiting for speech and language therapy.

As such, for each financial year from 2018/19 to 2023/24 (most recent):

1. the total number of referrals for speech and language therapy, broken down by
 1. adult and
 - b) children and young people
2. both the median and longest wait from referral to an initial appointment/assessment, broken down by
 - a) adult and
 - b) children and young people?
3. both the median and longest wait from referral to starting treatment, broken down by
 - a) adult and
 - b) children and young people?
4. the total number of patients currently on a speech and language therapy waiting list, broken down by
 - a) adult and
 - b) children and young people?

Response

1. The number of referrals for speech and language therapy is:

	Adult	Children & Young People
2018/19	988	275
2019/20	970	330
2020/21	825	428
2021/22	852	331
2022/23	891	229
2023/24 to date	348	89

2. The median and longest wait from referral to an initial appointment/assessment is:

	Adult		Children & Young People	
	Median (Days)	Longest (Days)	Median (Days)	Longest (Days)
2018/19	3	90	69	189
2019/20	2	237	52	239
2020/21	1	207	28	503
2021/22	3	182	162	376
2022/23	4	196	159	576
2023/24 to date	4	392	327	856

3. Speech and Language Therapy do not record treatment start dates, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

4. The number of patients currently on a Speech and Language Therapy waiting list is:

- a) adult 27
- b) children and young people 136

Please note 2023/24 figures are to 31 August 2023.

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, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BD 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 **686-23** 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.