

Date: 26/10/2026

Our ref: FOI 13399

Enquiries to: Fife FOI Officer

Direct line: 01383 565194 | Extension: 35194 | Email: fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request, made on 20/09/2026, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

NHS Fife has completed a full and exhaustive search for information held in relation to your request and can provide the following response.

Request:

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 on behalf of ADHD Scot (adhdscot.co.uk). This updates your response FOI 12755. So there is no need to retrieve the original: for children triaged within the Fife multi-agency neurodevelopmental pathway you reported, as at 26 June 2026, a median wait for ADHD assessment of 22 weeks with 297 waiting; adult ADHD and autism figures were refused under section 12 because reason-for-referral is not recorded electronically in adult mental health services. I request:

1. The current equivalent of the children's neurodevelopmental pathway figures you provided (median wait and number waiting for ADHD assessment, and the equivalent for autism assessment if held), on the same basis, as at the most recent date for which data is held.
2. For children's ADHD: the longest current wait of anyone on the list, and the number of assessments completed in the most recent 12 months, if held.
3. For adults: the current average waiting time from referral to first assessment for suspected ADHD, and the number of adults currently awaiting assessment. I note your board answered a request covering these same two adult points on 7 July 2026 under reference FOI 12690 (AnnTodd, published on WhatDoTheyKnow), so this information appears available without engaging the cost limit; a single current list count is acceptable if the average wait is not held.

Response:



Chair: Pat Kilpatrick
Chief Executive: William Edwards
Fife NHS Board is the common name of Fife Health Board

1. Please see below the median waiting time and number of children on the waiting list as of 20th October 2026:

Pathway	Median wait (weeks)	Number of children waiting
ADHD	29	346
ASD	92	1,283

2. As of the 20th of October 2026, the longest current wait for the Children's ADHD pathway is 88 weeks. NHS Fife has completed 788 ADHD assessments in the last 12 months.
3. NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Complex and Critical Care Adult Mental Health Service does not have a specific ADHD/ASD/Neurodevelopmental pathway. Patients referred for Adult ADHD or Autism assessment are referred under the standard process of all referrals to the NHS Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Mental Health Service. Reason for referral or assessment type/condition is not specifically recorded electronically and therefore not available to extract to provide the number of patients waiting.

NHS Fife endeavour to meet the 18-week target from referral to first assessment, however this varies between sectors.

To provide the information requested, NHS Fife would be required to manually review individual patient records and extract the number of Adult ADHD/Autism referrals, wait times and first assessment information. This exercise would require the allocation of resources that the service does not have and to comply with your request would result in excessive cost to NHS Fife, and a calculation has been provided below to evidence this:

8,570 records to be reviewed × 5 minutes to review each record = 42,850 minutes
42,850 ÷ 60 minutes = 714 hours
714 hours × £15 (capped upper limit) = £10,710

This exceeds the limit of £600, and therefore has not been provided in response to your request.

On review of this request, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 has been applied in accordance with statutory requirements. Section 12 has been applied as the cost of identifying, locating and retrieving the information exceeds the £600 statutory limit, a calculation has been provided below to evidence this. Further information and resources on exemptions within the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, can be found in section 1.0 Appendixes and Resources.

Exemption:

Section 12 – Excessive cost of compliance.

Applied:

Section 12 has been applied to question three (3) only.

Exemption Rationale:

Section 12 has been applied as the estimated cost of identifying, locating and retrieving the requested information exceeds the £600 statutory limit. Public authorities are not required to comply with requests above this threshold.

Guide to Exemption:

[FeesandExcessiveCostofComplianceBriefing.pdf](#)

On behalf of NHS Fife, we hope this information is helpful. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of this request, you have the right to request a review.

If you require this information in another language or format (e.g. Braille, audio, large print) please contact the Equality and Human Rights Team at:

Email: fife.EqualityandHumanRights@nhs.scot

Phone: 01592 729130.

Alternatively, you can also contact the team via the NHS Fife SMS text service number on 07805800005 or call using ContactScotlandBSL for BSL-users.

Please find further information on requests reviews in 1.0 Appendixes and Resources.

Kind Regards,

The NHS Fife FOI Team

fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot

Appendixes and Resources

1.0 Request Reviews

Requests for review must be made in writing, setting out the reasons for seeking a review. and must be received within **40 working days** of the date you received this response.

The review will be carried out by a senior member of staff who was not involved in the original decision. Following the review, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to apply to the **Scottish Information Commissioner** for a decision.

Further information on request reviews can be accessed via the Scottish Information Commissioner website: [Asking the authority for a review | Scottish Information Commissioner](#)

2.0 NHS Fife Model Publication Scheme

NHS Fife's Model Publication Scheme, guide to information – aims to ensure and promote transparency, accountability and openness through proactively publishing information in line with the classification set out by the Scottish Information Commissioner.

NHS Fife Model Publication Scheme can be accessed via the organisation's website: [Guide to Information available through the Model Publication Scheme | NHS Fife](#)

3.0 NHS Fife Freedom of Information Policy

NHS Fife's Freedom of Information Policy GP/F1 Freedom of Information policy can be accessed via the organisation's website: [Freedom of Information | NHS Fife](#)

4.0 Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, can be accessed on the below link: [Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002](#)

5.0 Guide to Exemptions

Briefing notes and guidance on exemptions can be accessed on the links below:

Scottish Information Commissioner Office guidance: [Briefings and guidance | Scottish Information Commissioner](#)

Scottish Information Commissioner Office exemption briefings: [FOISA exemptions | Scottish Information Commissioner](#)