

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**REQUEST REF5239**

10/05/2023

Dear Mr Shelford,

Thank you for your email of 10/05/2023, in which you requested information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I am pleased to be able to respond to your request:

*“Please may I request the answers to the following questions. With regards to your organisation: Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust:”*

1. **a. For each of those years how many adult assessments for ADHD were done? If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

The table provided includes data for both adult and children services. Therefore, this table also answers Question 2 (a).

Assessments Assessment Year - Gender	Age Band		Grand Total
	Adult	CYP	
<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>771</b>
Female	279	126	405
Male	424	371	795
Not Specified	2		2
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>1,353</b>
Female	263	168	431
Male	374	517	891
Not Specified	4		4

**b. For each of those years what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for adults who had an assessment for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

The table provided includes data for both adult and children services. Therefore, this table also answers Question 2 (b).

Average Complete Wait To Assessment (Weeks) Assessment Year - Gender	Age Band	
	Adult	CYP
<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>
Female	30	13
Male	27	10
Not Specified	14	
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>
Female	33	25
Male	33	22
Not Specified	10	

**c. For each of those years how many adult ADHD referrals were rejected prior to the individual receiving an assessment?**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

The table provided includes data for both adult and children services. Therefore, this table also answers Question 2 (c).

Discharge Year - Gender	Age Band		Grand Total
	Adult	CYP	
<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>306</b>
Female	53	69	122
Male	36	146	182
Not Specified	2		2
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>1,326</b>
Female	263	168	431
Male	374	517	891
Not Specified	4		4



**d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

The table provided includes data for both adult and children services. Therefore, this table also answers Question 2 (d).

Awaiting Assessment		Age Band	
Awaiting Assessment - Gender	Adult	CYP	Grand Total
<b>as at 31st-March-2022</b>	<b>3,503</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>3,992</b>
Female	1,894	132	2,026
Male	1,600	356	1,956
Not Specified	8	1	9
Unknown	1		1
<b>as at 31st-March-2023</b>	<b>7,267</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>8,041</b>
Female	4,018	252	4,270
Male	3,223	522	3,745
Not Specified	24		24
Unknown	2		2

2. **a. For each of those years how many child assessments for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) were done?**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

Please see table under Question 1 (a).

**b. For each of those years what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for children who had an assessment for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

Please see table under Question 1 (b).

**c. For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

Please see table under Question 1 (c).

**d. For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.**

**If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit, please can you break this down by gender.**

Please see table under Question 1 (d).

3. **a (i). Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?**

Yes.

**a (ii). How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?**

As of Monday 08.05.2023, the Trust has 7682 service users aged over 18 years old awaiting assessment.

**a (iii). What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD assessment?**

The current wait times varies across localities due to funding and staffing:

Newcastle/Gateshead 210 weeks  
North Tyneside 234 weeks  
Northumberland 275 weeks  
South of Tyne 347 weeks  
Sunderland 199 weeks

This however does not account for annual leave. Most staff have full entitlement and therefore work for what equates to 46 weeks per annum.

**a (iv). What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?**

The current longest waiting time for assessment is 177 weeks.

**a (v). What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment?**

The service receives a referral mainly from GPs but this can come from other professional disciplines. At that time the team review and triage referrals on a daily basis to look at symptom presentation and associated risks. From this they will be actioned as routine or priority. Routine will be those service users with symptoms reported but no identified risks and not affecting work / education. Those deemed to be priority will have highlighted risks and need for immediate support.

**a (vi). Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?**

The service is complying and works with NICE guidelines when assisting service users through their pathway of care. The trust is satisfied that the service works within NICE guidelines.

**b (i). Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD assessment service?**

Yes.

**b (ii). How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023, there were 774 children waiting for a child ADHD assessment.

**b (iii). What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for a child ADHD assessment?**

We are currently processing referrals from autumn 2020. It is not possible to give an exact estimate of wait in weeks due to many factors including significant staffing shortages, any changes in the circumstances of young people, unforeseen complexities within assessments, and currently working through a backlog of cases.

**b (iv). What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD assessment?**

The current longest wait time for a child ADHD assessment is 127 weeks.

**b (v). What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.**

a. Referrals are sent into the Single Point of Access, the team gather information from family, young person (if age appropriate) and school to determine whether difficulties with attention, concentration, hyperactivity, or impulsivity are observed. In order to accept a referral, difficulties must be observed in 2 or more settings, and must be causing a clinically significant impact on the young person's functioning.

b. Additionally, information is gathered about whether a first line intervention has been tried and what the impact was of this. Consideration is given to what additional needs a young person may be presenting with and any onward referrals or treatment are required either in addition to, or prior to consideration of a neurodevelopmental assessment.

c. Since October 2022 the Single Point of Access have been sending out Neurodevelopmental Packs to families and schools to gather this information which includes the use of standardised rating scales and questionnaires. Prior to this, the information was gathered via telephone calls, teacher interviews and emails.

d. There are times when information is unclear, currently it may be possible for a Single Point of Access clinician to meet with the young person and their family for a triage appointment, or to complete a classroom observation to gather more detailed information.

e. Once the appropriate information has been gathered, clinicians review this to determine whether there is sufficient evidence across settings and impacting on a young person's functioning to accept the referral, if not signposting to more appropriate support is completed.

**b (vi). Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD?**

The service is complying and works with NICE guidelines when assisting service users through their pathway of care. The trust is satisfied that the service works within NICE guidelines.

**What are the dates of your financial year 2022-23 (and 2021-22)?**

The financial year runs from the 6<sup>th</sup> of April of a year to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April the following year.

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If you are not satisfied with the Trust's response to your request you may ask us to review it. If you wish to do this, please write to the Information Governance Manager enclosing a copy of your original request and explaining your complaint.



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