

Date 17 May 2023
Reference FOI/0002531/AM
Enquiries to Linda Brownlie
Telephone 01698 752634

Dear Mr Shelford,

Further to your enquiry of 16 April 2023 under the Freedom of Information Act, please find our response below. In your request you asked for the following information:

Adult ADHD services

- 1. For the financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please tell us:***
 - a. For each of those years, how many adult assessments for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) were done. If you have the data and it won't exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.***
 - b. For each of those years, what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for adults who had an assessment for ADHD. If you have the data and it won't exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.***
 - 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 exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.***
 - 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 exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.***

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested above on adult assessments for ADHD in the years 2021/22 and 2022/23 broken down by gender. NHS Lanarkshire does not have a central database within its general adult psychiatry service where the information you have requested is recorded. To find this information would require a manual check of patient records to identify those patients who are of adult age and their gender. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Child ADHD services

2. For the financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please tell us:

- a. For each of those years, how many child assessments for ADHD were done. If you have the data and it won't exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.**

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the number of child assessments for ADHD that were carried out in the years requested broken down by gender. NHS Lanarkshire's neurodevelopment service carries out neurodevelopmental assessments, not condition-specific assessments. Under the 'ESSENCE' model, a child or young person would receive a formulation of their neurodevelopment, which may include ADHD. To find this information would require a manual check of patient records. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

- b. For each of those years, what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for children who had an assessment for ADHD. If you have the data and it won't exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.**

The average waiting time for most assessments is currently up to three and a half years. There is, however, some variation in age groups with priority placed on 17 and 18 year-olds and pre-five-year-old children.

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with a break down by gender. To find this information would require a manual check of patient records. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

- 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 exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.**

I can advise that, from October 2022, our neurodevelopment service has not rejected any child ADHD referral prior to assessment.

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the number of child ADHD referrals that were rejected prior to assessment before October 2022. All such referrals were referred to CAMHS and/or paediatric service. To find this information would require a manual check of patient records. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in

the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

- 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 exceed the costs limit, please break this down by gender.*

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the number of children waiting for an ADHD assessment for the years requested broken down by gender. Our neurodevelopment service does not separate a referral by condition as part of a child's neurodevelopmental clinical assessment. To find this information would require a manual check of patient records. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Organisation and ADHD services

3. *With relation to the present time (reflecting the most recent data that you have), please answer the following questions:*

- a. *With regards to your adult ADHD services:*

- i. *Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service.*

I can advise that there is no specific commissioned service for adult ADHD assessments – these assessments take place within our community mental health teams for adult age patients.

- ii. *How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment.*

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the number of adults waiting for an ADHD assessment in the years requested. Our neurodevelopment service does not separate waiting list data for ADHD referrals or any other individual diagnosis. To find this information would require a manual check of patient records to identify those patients of adult age. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

- iii. *What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD assessment.*
iv. *What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD assessment.*

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the current expected and longest waiting time for an adult ADHD assessment as this varies widely by team and clinician. Patients can be referred for a query of ADHD but may end up diagnosed with something else, or no diagnosis. To find this information would require a manual check of all referrals to identify those patients with a diagnosis of ADHD. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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

The process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults referred for an ADHD assessments varies by team, however, NHS Lanarkshire follows NICE guidelines criteria on assessing adults with possible ADHD.

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

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 gives the public a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority such as NHS Lanarkshire. It gives no rights for the provision of views. Your question on whether NHS Lanarkshire is confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD is therefore not something that can be answered under the Act.

b. *With regards to your child ADHD services:*

i. *Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD assessment service.*

NHS Lanarkshire's child ADHD assessment service is part of its neurodevelopmental service which is hosted within child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

Please note that there have been some changes in the referral pathway for children and young people requiring an ADHD diagnosis. From 1 October 2022, all children requiring an ADHD diagnosis sits within the neurodevelopmental service. Prior to this, children and young people were referred to the CAMHS and paediatric service. Children already on the neurodevelopmental waiting list prior to 1 October 2022 would have had an assessment for ADHD, if needed. The referral may have been for autism and only on assessment would ADHD be indicated.

ii. *How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment.*

I regret to advise that I am unable to provide you with the number of children who are waiting for an ADHD assessment as the information you seek is not recorded electronically. To find this information would require a manual check of all referrals. This information gathering would exceed the charging threshold prescribed in the Regulations made by the Scottish Ministers which constitutes a ground of exemption in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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

iv. *What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD assessment.*

The current longest waiting time for a child ADHD assessment is approximately 184 weeks. We do not hold the current waiting time for any new referrals into the service as those waiting the longest are currently being prioritised. Accordingly, I must advise that in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 the information sought on the current waiting time for a child ADHD assessment is not held.

I can advise, however, that there has been a significant increase in staff and the service has commissioned an external supplier to support assessments so we anticipate a reduction in the waiting time.

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

Staff within our neurodevelopment service review each referral and, if this contains sufficient information, the referral will be accepted. If there is insufficient information, the team leader will contact the referrer, parent/care, school or any other relevant professional.

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

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 gives the public a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority such as NHS Lanarkshire. It gives no rights for the provision of views. Your question on whether NHS Lanarkshire is confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD are therefore not something that can be answered under the Act.

c. *Information on your financial year.*

- i. What are the dates of your financial year 2022-23.*
- ii. What are the dates of your financial year 2021-22.*

The dates for NHS Lanarkshire's financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as follows:

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

I hope this is to your satisfaction. If you have any further queries on this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are not satisfied with this response to your original request, we can advise you that you do have a right to a review under section 20 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. For this review you should write to Paul Cannon, board secretary, NHS Lanarkshire, Kirklands, Fallside Road, Bothwell G71 8BB or by email to Paul.Cannon@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk within 40 working days of 17 May 2023.

If, following the outcome of a request for review, you are still dissatisfied I can advise you that you have the right to make application for a decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner under Section 47(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. An appeal can be made to the Commissioner online at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal, by post to Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS, by telephone on 01334 464610, by fax on 01334 464611, and by email at enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely

Linda Brownlie

Linda Brownlie
Freedom of Information Officer
NHS Lanarkshire