

The Freedom of Information Team  
Information Governance Team Office  
1st Floor Haylock House  
Kettering Venture Park  
Kettering NN15 6EY

 0300 0111133 (voicemail only)  
 [foi@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@nhft.nhs.uk)

11 May 2023

Henry Shelford

ADHD UK

Sent by email only to:

[hello@adhd.uk](mailto:hello@adhd.uk)

Dear Requester,

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 request: FOI0423019**

With reference to your request for information made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act: we set out below your request together with the Trust's response(s):

**You asked:**

**QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON ADULT ADHD SERVICES**

1. For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:
  - a. For each of those years how many adult assessments for ADHD were done?
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you 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 (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you 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?
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you 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.
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

## QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CHILD ADHD SERVICES

2. For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:
  - a. For each of those years how many child assessments for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) were done?
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
  - 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).
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
  - c. For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
  - d. For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.
    - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION AND ITS ADHD SERVICES

3. With relation to the present time (reflecting the most recent data that you have). Please can you answer the following questions:
  - a. With regards to your adult ADHD services.
    - i. Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?
    - ii. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?
    - 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?
    - v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.
    - vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?
  - b. With regards to your child ADHD services
    - i. Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD Assessment service?
    - ii. How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?
    - 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?
- v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.
- vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD?
- 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.

**Our response:**

Qs 1(a-d) and 2(a-d) - Northamptonshire Healthcare is refusing these questions on the grounds that whilst it holds the requested information, current reporting functionality does not support reportage in this level of detail – see **Note** below.

Q3(ai) The Trust has a commissioned Adult ADHD Assessment Service.

Qs 3(aii) - 3(aiv): see **Note** below.

Q3(av) (regarding Trust process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment)

- We make an initial clinical opinion based on the relevant information recorded in the referral (evidence of ADHD features being persistent and pervasive, and of at least moderate severity)
- This is followed up by a f2f first contact appointment and possibly a further screening appointment if required – only then will a full ADHD diagnostic assessment be offered.

Q3(avi) (confidence that the organisation is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD)

- NHFT is fully confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines since only the most experienced clinicians with relevant ADHD clinical experience, training and substantive ongoing supervision are tasked with undertaking Adult ADHD assessment and diagnoses.

Q3(bi) Northamptonshire Healthcare has a commissioned CYP ADHD Assessment Service.

Qs 3(bii) - 3(biv) - see **Note** below

Q3(bv) (process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject CYP who have been referred for an ADHD assessment) :

- Supporting information on the CYPs symptoms and functioning in various environments will be requested from the Child's Parent / Carer and School. If the qualifying criteria are met, a multi-disciplinary assessment will take place. If the criteria are not met, the presenting behaviours may be considered and the CYP signposted to alternative services.

Q3(bvi) (confidence that the organisation is satisfying the NICE guidelines for CYP with ADHD)

- NHFT is fully confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines and has implemented a range of strategies and interventions to ensure that NICE guidelines are met in a comprehensive and effective way.

Q3c Northamptonshire Healthcare (NHFT) financial year dates for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 and 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, respectively.

**Note:** Regarding your Questions 1(a-d) and 2(a-d) and Qs3(aii)-3(aiv) and Qs3(bii)-3(biv) around Adult and CYP ADHD provision: due to the functionality of the Trust's reporting systems, it is not possible to isolate numbers of referrals and subsequent ADHD diagnoses without individual record interrogation. Upon receipt of a referral, the Service will consider all relevant neuro-diverse pathways rather than accepting a Referrer's suggestion of ADHD and so, whilst Northamptonshire Healthcare can confirm it holds the information, it is not available in a reportable format and would require manual interrogation of our records to extract the relevant data which we have assessed would take more than eighteen hours to complete and we would therefore need to charge you in order to provide this information since it would exceed the £450 limit for public authorities.

As a result, we are refusing Questions 1(a-d) and 2(a-d) and Qs3(aii)-3(aiv) and Qs3(bii)-3(biv) under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as detailed below:

**Refusal Notice – Section 12 Freedom of Information Act 2000:**

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004:

"Section 12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit".

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- “(a) determining whether it holds the information,
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.

This concludes our response to your request for information. If you are unhappy with the reply, please forward your concerns to the address below to request an Internal Review, detailing your reasons for dis-satisfaction and these will be addressed accordingly.

Head of Data Privacy/Group Data Protection Officer

---

Chair: Crishni Waring

Chief Executive: Angela Hillery

Trust Headquarters: St Mary's Hospital, London Road, Kettering NN15 7PW Tel: 01536 410141 Fax: 01536 452040

Follow us on Twitter: @NHFTNHS / Pinterest: @NHFTNHS / Instagram: NHFTNHS  
Find us on Facebook and LinkedIn: Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



NHFT Information Governance Team Office  
1st Floor Haylock House, Kettering Venture Park  
Kettering  
NN15 6EY

Alternatively, you may email your request to [dpo@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:dpo@nhft.nhs.uk). Please note that any such request should be made within forty working-days of the date of this response; requests received after this period will not be considered.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

Yours faithfully,

**The Freedom of Information Team**

**Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

Email: [foi@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@nhft.nhs.uk) | Web: [Northamptonshire Healthcare Home](#)

Information Governance Team Office

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Haylock House | Kettering Venture Park | Kettering | NN15 6EY