



Mr Henry Shelford  
[hello@adhduk.co.uk](mailto:hello@adhduk.co.uk)

19 May 2023

**Our Ref:** RFI 50506

Dear Mr Shelford

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to ADHD Services within the Trust**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 17 April 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Service & Social Work Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital ([informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net)) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R Manning'.

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Manager (Interim)**

***For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:***

- Q1. *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.***
- Q2. *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.***
- Q3. *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.***
- Q4. *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.***

A1-4. Please note in relation to Adult ADHD, the request is currently with the service under review. Please accept my apologies for the delay; as soon as the response is available it will be released to you.

***QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CHILD ADHD SERVICES***

***For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:***

- Q5. *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.***

A5. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

| <b>No. of Assessments for Children's ADHD (Acute)</b> |               |             |
|---|---------------|-------------|
|   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b> |
| <b>FY21/22</b>  | 103           | 280         |
| <b>FY22/23</b>  | 101           | 291         |

**Q6. 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.**

A6. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

| <b>Average Length of Wait (Low) in Days for Assessments for Children's ADHD (Acute)</b> |               |             |
|---|---------------|-------------|
|   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b> |
| <b>FY21/22</b>  | 376           | 383         |
| <b>FY22/23</b>  | 473           | 466         |

**Q7. 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.**

A7. Please see Table 3.

Table 3

| <b>No. of Inappropriate Referrals for Children's ADHD (Acute)</b> |               |                             |             |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Gender Indeterminate</b> | <b>Male</b> |
| <b>FY21/22</b>  | 1145          | <5                          | 956         |
| <b>FY22/23</b>  | 1086          | Nil                         | 1177        |

Where numbers in Table 3 are 1-4, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

Please note that Table 3 reflects the total number of referrals received by the service.

All referrals are deemed inappropriate until further information is returned that supports need for assessment.

**Q8. 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.**

A8. Please see Table 4.

Table 4

| <b>Children's ADHD Waiting List (Acute)</b> |               |             |
|---|---------------|-------------|
|   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b> |
| <b>FY21/22</b>                              | 208           | 506         |
| <b>FY22/23</b>                              | 241           | 560         |

**With regards to your adult ADHD services:**

**Q9a. Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?**

**Q9b. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?**

**Q9c. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD Assessment?**

**Q9d. What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?**

**Q9e. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.**

**Q9f. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?**

A9a-f. Please note in relation to Adult ADHD, the request is currently with the service under review. Please accept my apologies for the delay; as soon as the response is available it will be released to you.

**With regards to your child ADHD services**

**Q10a. Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD Assessment service?**

A10a. No, the Children's ADHD service is not commissioned.

**Q10b. How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?**

A10b. There are currently 801 children on the waiting list as of 18 April 2023.

**Q10c. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for a child ADHD Assessment?**

A10c. The average wait time is 66 weeks. This is due to implementation of expedition criteria.

**Q10d. What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD Assessment?**

A10d. The longest current waiting time as of 18 April 2023 is 99 weeks.

**Q10e. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.**

A10e. The Application of Nice Clinical Guideline 87. Evidence of pervasive difficulties across two settings.

**Q10f. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD?**

A10f. There are significant pressures on reviewing children and young people with a diagnosis and currently on treatment for ADHD. The ability to increase the number of new patient appointments is carefully considered against the duty of care to those already in service. Shared care arrangements are in place subject to timely ongoing reviews under the NICE guidelines.

The service has developed an early intervention package for those on the waiting list to provide psychoeducation and signpost to community based support consistent with NICE guidelines.

**Q11. Information on your financial year.**

**a. What are the dates of your financial year 2022-23.**

**b. What are the dates of your financial year 2021-22.**

A11a. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

A11b. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.