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**FOI/0007330 - Request for Information (ADHD Services)**

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**fv freedomofinformat (NHS Forth Valley)** <fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot>  
To: ADHD UK <hello@adhduk.co.uk>

10 May 2023 at 15:48

Dear Mr Shelford,

I refer to your recent request for information about ADHD. We have dealt with your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. For ease of reference, I have copied your request, together with our answers, below:

**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.**

Response to Q1 (a-d)

I am afraid we do not hold information in a manner which enables us to easily answer your questions. The reason for referral is only recorded in individual patient records, so we cannot easily provide data specifically in relation to ADHD. The only way to provide this detail would be to review every relevant patient record. This would be a considerable task and cost more than £600. It is therefore considered exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: Excessive cost of compliance.

If it is helpful, we would be able to provide you with details of the number of adult assessments undertaken within the period of your request, however this data would not be limited to ADHD.

**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.**

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Response to Q2 (a-d)

Similarly to the above, I am afraid we do not hold information in a manner which enables us to easily answer your questions. We do not have condition specific pathways in CAMHS and so cannot easily provide data specifically in relation to ADHD. The only way to provide this detail would be to review every relevant patient record. This task would involve reviewing over 2000 records for the period captured by your request and would therefore cost considerably more than £600. It is therefore considered exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: Excessive cost of compliance.

For your information, and if it is of use, we would be able to provide information more generally for children with Neurodevelopmental differences, which would include ADHD. If this information would be of assistance, please let me know.

**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?**

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Response to Q3a(i)

No. This part of your request therefore falls within section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: Information not held.

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

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Response to Q3a(ii)

We do record information on the presenting complaint and consequently cannot isolate adults who are specifically waiting for an ADHD assessment. This part of your request therefore falls within section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: Information not held.

If it would be helpful, we would be able to provide data on the number of individuals waiting for assessment, which would include ADHD. If this information would be of assistance, please let me know.

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

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Response to Q3a(iii)

All urgent referrals would be expected to be seen within 5 working days and non-urgent referrals within 12 weeks.

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

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Response to Q3a(iv)

See response to Q3a(ii).

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

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Response to Q3a(iv)

The threshold for assessment by General Adult Community mental health teams is that there needs to be evidence of significant risk (e.g. that there is an imminent danger of completed suicide or homicide) or evidence of severe functional disability (this would be to the extent that the individual would not be able to leave their home due to the severity of their symptoms). These criteria would apply to all presenting complaints and potential diagnosis.

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

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Response to Q3a(v)

The NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD are not compatible with the thresholds for secondary care specialist mental health services. NHS Forth Valley sees all patients regardless of their presenting complaint provided they meet the criteria for our specialist mental health services. These state that there must be evidence of significant risks associated with the mental health issue, or significant levels of disability (for example the person is unable to leave their home). Such levels of risk and disability can be associated with those who experience Adult ADHD, although this is quite rare. Unfortunately, diagnostic services for adults with ADHD who do not present serious risk or experience significant disability are not routinely available. We appreciate that this does present a challenge to many people seeking a diagnosis of ADHD.

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

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

Response to Q3(b)(i)

FV CAMHS will complete a condition specific ADHD assessment following the completion of a holistic assessment for neurodevelopmental disorders which is not exclusively related to ADHD and can include intellectual difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Disorder. If the clinician has identified ADHD only, an assessment is completed by existing clinicians within NHS Forth Valley CAMHS. We also currently utilise an independent service provided by Healios who undertake commissioned assessments relating to ADHD, and neurodevelopmental disorders, where there is no other co-morbid mental health concern.

**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?**

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Response to Q3(b)(ii-iv).

As noted in response to Q2, I am afraid we do not hold information in a manner which enables us to easily answer your questions. We do not have condition specific pathways in CAMHS and so cannot easily provide data specifically in relation to ADHD. The only way to provide this detail would be to review every relevant patient record. This task would involve reviewing over 2000 records for the period captured by your request and would therefore cost considerably more than £600. It is therefore considered exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: Excessive cost of compliance.

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

We undertake a robust vetting process which considers many aspects provided within each referral. A child will be accepted onto the CAMHS waiting list for assessment of ADHD if the concerns meet the nationally agreed Children and young people – national neurodevelopmental specification: principles and standards.

If there is no obvious citing of significant mental health issues, then the referral may be passed to the team who coordinate paediatric neurodevelopment work where links are made with relevant children's services in line with Getting it Right for Every Child. If this is decided, the family and referrer are made aware of this, and advised around who to contact if required.

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

NHS Forth Valley CAMHS are assured that they satisfy the requirements set out in the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD. We have access to ADHD specialists alongside child psychiatrists who ensure there is a robust pathway of assessment, diagnosis and intervention in place. We work alongside families and involve them in care planning and options relating to treatment should this be indicated. We also access a clinical pharmacist who provides an additional layer of governance around the use of medicines for children with a diagnosis of ADHD.

**c. Information on your financial year.**

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

01/04/2022-31/03/2023

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

01/04/2021-31/03/2022

I hope this is of some assistance. If you are dissatisfied with our response, you are entitled to request a review. A request for review must be made in writing to the Information Governance Department, NHS Forth Valley, Carseview House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4SW or [fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot), no later than forty working days from receipt of the response. Your request must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review, you then have the right to ask for advice, assistance or a formal appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS or [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

Please feel free to contact us should you require any further advice or assistance.

Kind regards,  
Sarah Hughes-Jones

Sarah Hughes-Jones  
Head of Information Governance  
NHS Forth Valley

Direct Dial: 01786 457308

Email: Sarah.Hughes-Jones@nhs.scot

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**From:** ADHD UK <[hello@adhduk.co.uk](mailto:hello@adhduk.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 16 April 2023 16:21  
**To:** fv freedomofinformat (NHS Forth Valley) <[fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot](mailto:fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot)>  
**Subject:** FOI request - Information on your ADHD services

**Dear FOI Service,**

**Please may I request the answers to the following questions. With regards to your organisation: NHS Forth Valley**

#### **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.
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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.

Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Kind regards,

Henry Shelford

**Henry Shelford**

*CEO & Co-founder ADHD UK*

**ADHD UK**

[49 Greek Street](#)

London

W4 3UR

020 3984 9679

[www.adhduk.co.uk](http://www.adhduk.co.uk)

[We are entirely reliant on donations and fundraising. Click here to fundraise or donate](#)

I'm often in the media talking about ADHD and our work. [Click here for our most recent mentions](#)

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