

Our Ref: 0053  
2 June 2026

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Dear Requester,

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE**

We write in response to your email dated 6 May 2026 regarding ADHD assessments.

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is confirming in accordance with Section (1) (a) of the Act, whether it holds the information requested and (b) is supplying it unless stated otherwise.

Established on 1 April 2026, NHS Norfolk and Suffolk ICB is a newly formed public sector organisation. We may hold information relating to NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB and NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB and their predecessor organisations. Where appropriate for the request we have indicated below if any of the information relates to the previous ICBs.

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk ICB can confirm it does hold the requested information in part. Accordingly, the ICB has provided a copy of your request below and attached along with its response(s) for context and ease of reference.

**I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information regarding ADHD assessments within NHS Norfolk and Suffolk ICB.**

### **Adult ADHD Assessments**

**1. How many adults do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?**

The ICB does not currently hold this information. Adult ADHD diagnostic pathways are primarily managed through primary care, and as such, data on the number of adults waiting for diagnosis is not routinely captured within our ICB-held datasets.

However, the ICB is undertaking a transition in its approach to data collection and validation across providers. As part of this work, there will be an increased focus on improving the availability and consistency of such information in the future.

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust should be able to assist you further and can be contacted at the following link <https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

**2. How many adults were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).**

The ICB does not routinely collect or hold this information. Provision of adult ADHD assessments is largely undertaken via primary care pathways.

As part of the ICB's ongoing transition to strengthen data processes, work is underway to improve visibility and assurance of provider data.

3. **If an adult was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?**  
This information is not held.
4. **Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.**  
In line with NICE guidelines, adults who present to their GP to explore whether they may have ADHD are asked to complete a screening tool. If the screening indicates a potential diagnosis, the individual is invited to select a provider via the Right to Choose framework, and a referral is made accordingly.  
The selected provider then undertakes a formal assessment. Where ADHD is diagnosed, a treatment plan is initiated, which may include medication titration. Once the treatment plan is established, ongoing care is either retained by the provider or transferred back to the GP under a shared care agreement.
5. **Do you have any indicative activity plans in place for Right to Choose ADHD Adult Assessment providers?**  
Yes
6. **If yes, to the above, please outline each indicative activity plan (for Adult ADHD Assessment providers) that you have in place. Including the name of the provider and the activity plan they are to adhere to.**  
This information is currently withheld from disclosure, see the Public Interest Test below.

#### Child ADHD Assessments

7. **How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?**  
As 1.
8. **How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).**  
As 2.
9. **If a child was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?**  
This information is not held.
10. **Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.**  
Please see the following link  
<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/nd-digital-library/overview-of-the-diagnostic-process-and-what-to-expect/referral-and-diagnostic-pathways/>
11. **Do you have any indicative activity plans in place for Right to Choose ADHD Child Assessment providers?**  
Yes
12. **If yes, to the above, please outline each indicative activity plan (for Child ADHD Assessment providers) that you have in place. Including the name of the provider and the activity plan they are to adhere to.**  
As 6

#### Public Interest Test

The information sought IAPs is currently exempt from disclosure into the public domain by virtue of the exemption set at Section 43(2) of the FOIA. Section 43(2) is a prejudice-based exemption and, as such, we are required to assess both the prejudice test and the public interest test in withholding this information against that of its release.

When assessing the prejudice test, we need to demonstrate that there would be an impact on the commercial interests of the ICB or a third party should this information be released. The ICB believes that disclosure of the information now would prejudice the commercial interests of the ICB and its providers. This is because the service is under review and the ICB is due to start discussions with providers. Therefore, any disclosure now would reveal commercially sensitive information into the public domain. This would give competitors a commercial advantage over the current providers as this information would be used in any future procurement exercise to undercut the providers.

The ICB takes its responsibility to be transparent and accountable in its decision making and to promote public understanding of how the NHS works seriously. These services and IAPs are paid for through

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general taxation and therefore the public have an interest in whether services commissioned by the ICB represent value for money. Each month the ICB publishes all spend over £25k and any spend over this amount will be included in this published information. Therefore, the ICB does publish a high level of expenditure for the public to scrutinise.

<https://www.norfolkandsuffolk.icb.nhs.uk/documents/?search=&type=expenditure-over-25k-reports&datefrom=#filter-summary>

The ICB has determined that disclosing the information would prejudice the commercial interests of current providers and therefore damage the commercial relationship the ICB has built with them. The ICB has a responsibility to secure the best use of public resources and provide value for money. To achieve this, the ICB needs to have a wide range of organisations willing to provide these services. It is also vitally important to patients that there is a wide range of organisations who can provide these services.

We are also required to conduct the public interest test, which assesses whether releasing the information would be in the public interest despite the prejudice test being satisfied. It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. We recognise that there is a public interest in our being open and transparent. However, we do not believe that this public interest is served in disclosure for the damage that would be caused as outlined above.

Disclosure would impact severely on the ICB's ability to get best value for money from the public purse. Therefore, we consider that releasing this information now would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above. Once the discussions with the providers are complete, the ICB may be in a position to disclose the information then.

We hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold but if we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to email [nwicb.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nwicb.foi@nhs.net) or post to the address at the top of this letter.

The ICB will investigate your complaint independently in accordance with the process described within its FOI Policy. An outcome will be provided within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot decide unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the ICB.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: telephone 0303 123 1113, email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk) and <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Yours faithfully

Access to Information Team  
**Norfolk and Suffolk ICB**

[Norfolk & Suffolk ICB](#)

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