



Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Team

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FOI / EIR Reference number: 92005

Call 01208 834 496

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Date: 2 July 2026

Emailed to: Henry Shelford
research@adhduk.co.uk

To whom it may concern

Freedom Of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information as detailed below, together with our reply.

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information regarding ADHD assessments delivered by Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Adult ADHD Assessments

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

Answer: 3131.

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

Answer: 69.

3. If an adult were referred to you now, when would you expect them to be seen?

Head office: Carew House, Beacon Technology Park, Dunmere Road, Bodmin, PL31 2QN.
Matthew Taylor, Chair. Debbie Richards, Chief Executive.

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Answer: If someone is referred today and the Trust remain with the current staffing the individual would not be seen for over 5 years as the Trust are only contracted to provide 80 assessments per year.

4. Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.

Answer: The Trust received referrals from primary care and health professionals and triage all new referrals weekly. The Trust then identify suitability if they meet the threshold for a diagnostic assessment. They are then added to the waiting list for an assessment and sent a waiting list letter with contact details on who they can call. When they are due their diagnostic assessment our service contacts them to inform them and sends out a pre assessment pack. Once this is sent back, the Trust allocate them an assessment appointment which is either online or in person. The assessment is then completed with the clinician, who then complete a report. Each assessment is discussed in MDT prior to finalising. If a patient is diagnosed, then we discuss treatment options both non-pharmacological and medication options and once agreed they moved into the treatment pathway. If they are not diagnosed, then they are discharged back to the GP with recommendation of next steps.

Child ADHD Assessments

5. How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?

Answer: As at end of May 2026 there were 3516 adolescent patients waiting for an Neurodivergence Assessment including Autism. Unable to separate into ADHD alone.

6. How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026)?

Answer: 298.

7. If a child were referred to you now, when would you expect them to be seen?

Answer: If a child were referred to the Trust now, the team would expect them to be seen in approximately 5 years. However, the Trust are working hard to reduce this waiting time, with efficiencies, new ways of working, and requests for additional funding.

8. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.

Answer: Children and young people can access support for their needs in Cornwall without a diagnosis as part of the needs-led Neurodevelopmental (ND) strategy.

- If they require more support for ND needs, they can have a Neurodevelopmental profiling tool completed with a practitioner who knows them (such as school staff, Health visitor, school nurse, family support) to identify reasonable adjustments and support ideas.
- If following a review of this (after implementing for 12 weeks or more), they feel they need specialist support or a diagnostic assessment, they can request this through a 'request for consultation form'.
- This request is screened and they are either offered a consultation or accepted straight onto the ND assessment waiting list (if enough appropriate information is provided).
- Once on top of the waiting list, the parents are asked to submit developmental history information, and school are requested to submit information.
- Once this is received, the parents are invited to an appointment with a clinician to gather further parent information about their current lived experiences, and then the child is invited to an assessment.
- Depending on their age and school status - this will either be a school observation, or a clinical assessment (which includes a QB assessment) - either route involves observation of the child with specific tasks and a detailed discussion with the child about their views and their lived experience.
- Occasionally if it is identified that a further assessment is needed to differentiate between another condition (such as autism, developmental coordination disorder, developmental language disorder, intellectual disability, or Foetal alcohol spectrum) - this will be booked in addition.
- Once the assessment is complete, clinicians meet for a Multi-Disciplinary Team diagnostic discussion, make a decision about whether the child meets the criteria for assessment or not.
- They then call the parent to inform them of the decision and send a report to the parent and the school and GP. This includes additional advice and support, and if requested by the child or parent, their details may be shared with the ADHD treatment service if they wish to explore further medication options.
- The child is then discharged from the assessment service.

If you have any further queries, please contact me.

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If you are not satisfied with the response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review, which must be submitted within forty working days of receipt of our response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will decide as to whether your request was managed correctly. We aim to provide a response within twenty working days, however in certain complex cases this may be extended by an additional twenty working days.

If you would like to request a review, write to: Head of Information Governance, Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 6, Carew House, Beacon Technology Park, Dunmere Road, Bodmin, PL31 2QN.

If you remain dissatisfied, after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct the Trust to respond to your request differently, if it is considered that your request was managed incorrectly. Write to: Information Commissioners, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

The Trust continually strives to provide the best possible service to people who request information using the Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislation, or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. To help achieve this, the Trust would be most grateful if you would complete and return a satisfaction survey via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Xtj5e98Xs4>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Bird', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Bird
Deputy Director of Improvement & Corporate Compliance