

Our ref: JMcG/gf/FOI 3866

23rd July 2026

By Email: research@adhduk.co.uk

Dear Mr Shelford,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information regarding ADHD assessments for adults & children in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust has now been considered. Please see the response below.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you should write to the FOI lead for the Trust. You have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. 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 review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact:

Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Closed Records Store
St Luke's Hospital Site
Loughgall Road
Armagh
BT61 7NQ

Tel: 02837 567262

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

Yours sincerely

(Sent electronically, not signed)

Jan McGall
Director of Mental Health and Disability

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information regarding ADHD assessments within Southern Health and Social Care Trust. The Department of Health (SPPG) advised us (FOI ref DOH 2026-0116) that ADHD services are not regionally commissioned and that the individual HSC Trusts may hold this information.

For your reference, the DOH's response to us — so you can see exactly what was asked and how it was redirected to your Trust — is published here (and attached) : <https://adhduk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026.0630-NI-DOH-2026-0116.pdf>

Adult ADHD Assessments

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

Response:

The Southern HSC Trust does not retain a waiting list for an adult ADHD diagnosis.

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

Response:

Please refer to response to Q1.

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

Response:

Please refer to response to Q1.

4. Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.

Response:

The Southern HSC Trust does not have an adult ADHD assessment pathway as it is an uncommissioned service. The Trust continues to engage with the Strategic planning and Performance Group (SPPG), alongside other stakeholders, to design an ADHD diagnostic service.

Child ADHD Assessments

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

Response:

As of 01 July 2026 there are 899 children/young people waiting on an assessment of ADHD.

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

Response:

Due to the implementation of an electronic healthcare system, the data for this period is difficult to extract.

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of patient records. As such we cannot provide this as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

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

Response:

Currently the waiting time for an assessment of ADHD to commence from the date of referral is 26 months. If a child/young person was referred today on 01 July 2026 it is expected a first appointment will be offered September 2028.

8. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.

Response:

Please see flowchart below.

ADHD PATHWAY

