

Our ref: HWHCT- 23/24-16

15th May 2023

By email

Email: WHCNHS.FOIrequest@nhs.net

Dear Henry,

Re: Request for information under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received on 16 April 2023. You requested the following information:

FOI request and Trust responses:

Questions Focused on Adult ADHD Services

*Please note due to a nationwide incident impacting system in 2022 into early 2023, provided by our electronic patient record supplier, we are currently unable to process part of your request relating to 2022-2023 data.

National System outage information is available on the following link:

<https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/news/local-nhs-services-remain-open-for-patients-4852>

We are in the process of continuing work to restore lost data to our patient record system, however at this time the information has not been restored and is not in a reportable format. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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.

Response:

Adult ADHD Assessments 01/04/2021- 31/03/22		Adult ADHD Assessments 01/04/2022- 31/03/23
Female	98	*See comments above
Male	113	
not specified	1	
Total	212	

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).

Response:
33 weeks

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).

Response:
33 weeks

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:
We are unable to breakdown by Gender as this is one weekly figure

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.

Response:

Adult ADHD Assessments 01/04/2021- 31/03/22		Adult ADHD Assessments 01/04/2022- 31/03/23
Female	20	*See comments above
Male	12	
Not specified	0	
Total	32	

d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.

Response:
1081

We do not have split of this as data as the data was manually recorded by the service and is not reported centrally and is embedded in the personal record.

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. Therefore, we are unable to answer this section of your request for information pursuant to **section 12 of the Act** on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour

Questions focused on Child ADHD Services

2. The Trust Community Paediatric Team is commissioned to provide Under 18 ADHD services for Worcestershire. They do not have separate access lists for ADHD; the children are embedded within the work of the community paediatric team, and we are unable to extract this from data held centrally (although information may be held within individual patient records).

Response:

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. Therefore, we are unable to answer this section of your request for information pursuant to **section 12 of the Act** on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour

***Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means.** This information is already published on our website and is considered exempt from disclosure under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, as it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

This information is available on the Trust disclosure log on there is information regarding the service on the Trust website which can be accessed via the following links: [Disclosure Log | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](#)

<https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/search/service/community-paediatric-team-18>

We refer you to review the following responses available on our disclosure log under section 21* of the FOI Act

<https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/hwhct-015>

<https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/hwhct--140>

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?

Response: The Adult ADHD service commenced as a separate service in 2020.

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

Response: 2300 patients currently waiting

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

Response: 550 weeks

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

Response: 108 weeks (patients referred April 2021).

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

Response: We review the referral letter and if the information is not adequate, we request GP to give more information. We expect an ADHD scale (Usually ASRS) and evidence of symptoms before the age of 12, as well as negative impact on functioning. Each assessment takes at least 3 hours and includes a screening telephone call.

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

Response: NICE also advises a comprehensive package of care and only a small proportion are offered psychoeducation and other strategies and joint working with other agencies like substance misuse and employment services is minimal due to time pressures on all agencies.

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?

Response to questions 3 b,i,ii,iii,iv Please refer to response to question 2.

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

Response:

We have referral criteria for the community paediatric service and request ADHD screening questionnaires to be completed for all generic referrals.

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

Response:

Due to the waiting times in community paediatrics service (in excess of 15 months on average for all referrals) we are not compliant with NICE guidelines. This has been raised with the Integrated Care Board (Commissioners).

- c. *Information on your financial year.*

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

Response: 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023

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

Response: 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022

Please be aware that although this information is accurate at the time it is provided, it may not be in the future and should not be relied upon.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, your request will form part of our disclosure log within our Publication Scheme. Therefore, a version of our response, which will protect your identity, will be posted on the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust website.

Please note that any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information you have requested, in whole or in part, please write to me stating the purpose(s) you wish to re-use the information for. We will respond within 20 working days of receiving your request with any conditions or charges that relate to the re-use of the information. These will be determined in line with the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

I trust this matter has been dealt with to your satisfaction but if there is anything on which you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email address above. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Head of Information Governance, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, 2 Kings Court, Charles Hastings Way, Worcester, WR5 1JR. Any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the initial response. The Trust is not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 days.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the Trust's internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

The Information Commissioner's address is: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

FOI Team
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust