

27 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 486

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Services for Adults with ADHD**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 21 January 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to the question you have raised has been provided by the Adult Services and Prison Healthcare Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. 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 internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Keith McCollum
Information Governance Team

Q1. *Does the South Eastern HSCT provide services for adults with ADHD including diagnosis and various methods of treatment?*

A1. The SE Trust provides a very limited ADHD Service as it is currently not commissioned. The Department of Health are in the process of scoping the service needs for Northern Ireland.

We have recognised the complex and specialised nature of ADHD and the necessity for diagnostic assessments, therefore, while no such service has been commissioned or funded, we moved to set up a specialist clinic - ADHD Service for Adults (ASA).

We accept new referrals, however, priority is afforded to patients transferred to ASA with an existing diagnosis and who are prescribed medication and require monitoring, as per NICE guidelines.

For patients awaiting a diagnostic assessment, the demand for ADHD assessment far outweighs capacity, which is resulting in long waiting times of several years, although we continue to accept referrals by way of understanding the level of need that exists.

Within the Trust, referrals are received through the Mental Health Assessment Centres located in Newtownards, Downpatrick and Lisburn, which offer a single point of entry for all referrals to Mental Health Services. Patients with a co-morbid mental health problem are offered a mental health assessment and managed appropriately, where necessary via the adult mental health core care pathway, in addition, to the ADHD Service for adults.