



18 September 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1369

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Adult ADHD Assessments**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 22 August 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1. What is the name of your Trust?

A1. The South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust.

Q2. Where are you based?

England

Scotland

Wales

Northern Ireland

A2. Northern Ireland.

Q3. Do you run an adult ADHD service?

Yes

No (If No the form will skip everything until Q13)

A3. Yes, the Trust runs an Adult ADHD service.

Q4. How many adults are currently waiting for an ADHD assessment across your Trust?

Please enter the total number. If you do not record this information, please enter: Not recorded

A4. Due to the new digital system, the information that you have requested is not centrally held in a way which is easily extracted. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of question 4.

However, the Trust can confirm that there are currently over 4000 people on the waiting list to receive ADHD services.

Q5. How many referrals for adult ADHD assessments did you receive across your trust in 2024?

Please enter the total number. If you do not record this information, please enter: Not recorded

A5. The Trust received 1158 referrals in 2024.
Please note, the Trust is unable to determine how many referrals were for a diagnostic assessment as referrals incorporate the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and paediatric transition referrals of diagnosed and medicated patients, diagnosed patients that are un-medicated and privately diagnosed patients.

Q6. How many adult ADHD assessments did you carry out across your trust in 2024?

Please enter the total number. If you do not record this information, please enter: Not recorded

A6. The Trust have not completed any new diagnostic assessments in 2024 due to a lack of commissioned funding and the demands on capacity to provide monitoring of those patients already diagnosed and medicated within the ADHD service.

Q7. Do you support patients while they are on the waiting list?

Yes

No (If No the form will skip Q8)

A7. Yes, the Trust supports patients whilst they are on the waiting list for the ADHD service.

Q8. Please outline what support you offer patients while they are on the waiting list?

A8. All Trust patients seeking an ADHD referral are assessed for comorbid issues prior to being placed on the waiting lists for an assessment. They are managed via internal mental health services or voluntary sector services if clinically indicated. They are made aware of how to access services through the regional mental health core care pathway. The Trust have also recently created an information leaflet outlining some supporting advice.

Q9. Has your any part of your Trust closed waiting lists for new adult ADHD assessment referrals at any point in the last 12 months?

Yes

No (If No the form will skip Q10)

A9. The Trust continues to accept referrals by means of collating the demand for a commissioned diagnostic service. The Trust is currently unable to provide a diagnostic assessment for ADHD.

Q10. Please give details of which services were affected and for how long?

A10. N/A.

Q11. Do any adult ADHD services across your trust have an exclusion criteria for assessment referrals?

Yes

No (If no, the form will skip Q12)

A11. No, not currently.

Q12. Please select all relevant reasons from this list:

- **We do not accept patients over a certain age**
- **We only accept patients with complex cases, eg other mental health conditions**
- **We do not accept patients who are being seen by an adult mental health team or have complex mental health conditions**
- **We do not accept patients if we believe their symptoms are not causing significant functional impairment**
- **The service is only commissioned to see a certain amount of patients, so new referrals are rejected after that target is reached**

A12. N/A