

06 July 2021

Our Ref: RFI 36140

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to ASD 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 9 October 2020. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Thank you for your patience.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services & Social Work 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 Assistant**

Q1. The current waiting list for an ASD assessment and the average waiting time.

A1. As of 12/10/2020, the Trust had 38 patients waiting for an ASD Assessment with average waiting time of 28 days until the 1st appointment.

Q2. The number of children who requested an ASD assessment in 2019 and the average waiting time.

A2. For 2019 there were 604 Children referred for an ASD Assessment in the Trust, with an average waiting time of 49 days until the 1st appointment.

Q3. The budget allocated and budget spent in 2019 on ASD assessments.**Q4. The budget allocated and budget spent from Jan 2020- August 2020 on ASD assessments.**

A3-4. In the Trust the budget allocation and spend covers both ASD assessment and ASD intervention; clinicians within the service work across both assessment clinics and intervention service.

Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Calendar Year	Budget	Expenditure
Full 2019	£574,796.00	£525,675.00
Full 2020	£793,054.00	£507,006.00

The additional budget allocation in 2019 and 2020 was utilised to progress the Trust's neurodevelopmental service and early intervention support in line with the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework. There were also vacancies within the ASD Service which have been recruited to.