

26th May 2023

Our Ref: RFI50506

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Adult ADHD Services within the Trust**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the remainder of the information relating to above which you requested on 17 April 2023. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to questions 1, 3a 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

- Q1. 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? If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**
 - 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). If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**
 - c. For each of those years how many adult ADHD referrals were rejected prior to the individual receiving an assessment? If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**
 - d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**
- Q3. With relation to the present time (reflecting the most recent data that you have). Please can you answer the following questions:
With regards to your adult ADHD services.**
- a. Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?**
 - b. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?**
 - c. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD Assessment?**
 - d. What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?**
 - e. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.**
 - f. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?**

A1&3. The Trust has not been commissioned to provide a service for adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) therefore are unable to provide accurate information for Questions 1 & 3.

The Trust has established a small specialist service, known as ASA, in 2022 (1.0 whole time equivalent (WTE) Consultant/1.0 WTE Admin support), which is internally funded from the Trust's Adult Mental health budget. Given the very limited resource available, this service is primarily aimed at supporting and monitoring young people diagnosed with ADHD who are transitioning from children's services. However, at the same time, the number of adults requesting diagnostic assessment has continued to increase.

The Trust's assessment process is consistent with the NHS standard of around 3 hours for a diagnostic assessment.

Unfortunately, this means that the number of assessments that can be provided is also limited and with an un-commissioned service, the waiting times are long.

As of March 2023, the referral rate is now around 10 to 12 per week. 759 people are currently waiting for a diagnostic assessment. A further 218 people have had a previous diagnosis and are waiting to be seen so that they can continue or restart ADHD medication. Around 690 people are in active treatment with the ASA service.

As the service has not been commissioned, a target waiting time for diagnostic assessment has not been identified for the Trust to aim toward achieving.