



31 March 2023

**Our Ref:** RFI 49685

Dear

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

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 6 March 2023.

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](mailto: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

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. *What is the Average wait time for an ADHD diagnosis for Adults within the Trust Area?***

A1. All referrals for diagnostic assessment are triaged and prioritised depending on set criteria. The wait time has depended on these criteria with no average that applies to all referrals. Young people who have been diagnosed as children and need to access the service in order to continue with their treatment are first priority. The number of referrals far exceeds the available capacity and in reality some people may be waiting several years before they can access an assessment.

**Q2. *What is the current target waiting times for ADHD diagnosis?***

A2. A target waiting time for diagnostic assessment has not been identified for the Trust to aim toward achieving.

**Q3. *When was the last time the ADHD service met the maximum waiting time target as set by the Health and Social Care Commissioning plan and indicators of performance Direction?***

A3. Please see the answers to questions above and below. As no service has been commissioned, the Trust is not measured against a waiting time target.

**Q4. *What ADHD services are commissioned for Adults in the Trust area? Are the commissioned services in proportion to the levels of ADHD suspected in the Population?***

A4. There are no ADHD services commissioned for adults in the Trust area.

**Q5. *How much funding is allocated to ADHD services in the Trust area?***

A5. There is no allocated funding for ADHD diagnostic or treatment services for adults in the Trust area. Due to a rapidly increasing demand, alongside a better understanding of the training, expertise and infrastructure needed to provide this type of assessment and treatment, the Trust has internally funded a small specialist service. This service consists of one professional only and as such, can only partially meet demand, which continues to increase. Without commissioning or funding, this service cannot be sustained over the longer term or expanded to meet the demand.

**Q6. *If Adults have a private diagnosis of ADHD, are they accepted into the Trust ADHD services?***

A6. The Trust ADHD service for adults (ASA) accepts referrals from private providers as long as the diagnostic assessment meets the same standard as the assessment carried out by the ASA service. This includes a full neurodevelopmental assessment, including the use of a standardised and validated diagnostic tool.

**Q7. *What interventions are offered to adults whilst they are waiting to be seen for their ADHD diagnosis appointment?***

A7. The ASA service consists of one professional and as such is not in a position to offer direct interventions to people who are waiting for an appointment. As part of service development, an information bundle is planned, which will include self-help materials and signposting to available community supports.

**Q8. *Has a patient impact assessment been completed by the Trust for those on the ADHD waiting list? For the individual and their family/ carers?***

A8. No

**Q9. *Does the Trust area allocate any funding to the voluntary sector for ADHD support services?***

A9. No

**Q10. *How has ADHD been considered in the Recent Mental Health strategy?***

A10. The Trust is unable to answer this question.

**Q11. *How are co-morbid conditions managed within the ADHD Adult service?***

A11. The Trust Adult Mental Health (AMH) service provides assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness which is at a threshold level above primary care. Anyone presenting with mental illness regardless of whether they also have ADHD will access treatment through core AMH services.