

19 October 2023

**Our Ref:** RFI 53744

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Prisoners Diagnosed 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 25 September 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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**Caroline Degans**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. What are the current statistics of prisoners diagnosed with ADHD?**

A1. There is a growing recognition of ADHD in the wider community and a body of evidence which indicates ADHD having a higher prevalence in prison populations. Currently, on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 we have 257 patients in our care self-reporting they have ADHD. Of those self-reporting, 16 patients are currently receiving medication for ADHD.

**Q2. What are the current screening processes for new prisoners for ADHD?**

A2. In alignment with NICE guidelines 57 and 66 all those entering prison are offered a face to face initial and second stage health assessment, and a face to face Mental Health triage. This allows opportunity to identify those with historic and current ADHD.

**Q3. What are the current programmes in place to help inmates deal with their ADHD?**

A3. The Healthcare in Prison have an integrated Multidisciplinary team on each site. Presently we operate under a stepped care model with the aim of providing person centred individualised co-designed support. Healthcare in Prison is commissioned for a small psychology service and if the individual is experiencing psychological distress that is impacting on their daily functioning they can be referred to Psychological Therapies. This works on their presenting difficulties operating within a stepped care model. The individual may be offered mental health awareness group, or one to one therapy, which may be based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Cognitive Analytic Therapy, Trauma informed, compassion focused, or Dialectical Behavioural Therapy. In addition, the Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings discuss a holistic approach, involving for example Speech and Language Therapy and perhaps referral to the Lego group. This is a group who use Lego to help build skills for those with communication difficulties.

A Healthcare in Prison consultant psychiatrist (with a specialist interest in Neuro Diversity) has delivered awareness sessions for ADHD in Maghaberry Prison and is aiming to roll out sessions with the patients in Hydebank Wood College.

**Q4. *Are inmates screened specifically for ADHD or for mental illness as a whole?***

A4. In alignment with NICE guidelines 57 and 66 all those entering prison are offered face to face initial and a second stage health assessment, and a face to face Mental Health triage. This allows opportunity to identify historic and current need of both ADHD and “mental illness”.

Diagnostics for ADHD requires skilled clinicians to complete a multi-disciplinary assessment utilising standardised measures. In the wider community Services for ADHD in adult’s have not been consistently commissioned. Specialist assessment for ADHD is not commissioned within Healthcare in Prison.