



12 April 2024

**Our Ref:** RFI 56742

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to 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 20 February 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adults Services & Prison Healthcare and the Children's Service & 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](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. Do you provide ADHD assessments?  
Please specify if this is for:**

- a. Children**
- b. Adults**
- c. Both.**

A1a. Children's

Yes, the Trust Children's ADHD service provides assessment and treatment for children and young people (CYP).

A1b. Adults

No, as the Trusts Adult ADHD service is not a commissioned service, the Trust is unable to provide diagnostic assessments due to the increase in demand of patients with an existing diagnosis who are on prescribed medication and require regular reviews and physical health monitoring.

**Q2. How many people are currently on your waiting list for ADHD assessments?  
Please break this down between children and adults.**

A2a. Children's

Due to the recent transition to the new digital patient record system Encompass, accurate figures are temporarily unavailable. The service is currently unable to reliably report on the number of CYP waiting for ADHD diagnostic assessments.

However, the Trust can confirm that prior to the new Encompass System, as at 8 November 2023, the total number of CYP waiting for an ADHD assessment 2023 was 1089.

A2b. Adults

There are in excess of 1000 people awaiting a diagnostic assessment, however the Trust is currently unable to offer diagnostic assessments due to the lack of commissioned funding.

**Q3. How many assessments have you carried out every calendar year between 2018 and 2023? If possible, please break this down between children and adults.**

A3a. Children's

Please see Table 1 for the number of assessments carried out between 2018 and 2023.

Table 1

Year	No. of Assessments Carried Out
2018	386
2019	421
2020	394
2021	436
2022	375
2023	293*

\*Due to the new Encompass System the Trust is currently only able to provide accurate figures from 1 January 2023 to 31 October 2023.

A3b. Adults

The Adult ADHD Service is unable to provide the number of assessments carried out, broken down by year, as the data was not recorded in this way. The Trust can confirm that there was approximately 53 assessments in total carried out between 2018 and 2023.

**Q4. How many ADHD referrals did you receive each calendar year between 2018 and 2023? Please break this down between children and adults.**

A4a. Children's

Please see Table 2 for the number of ADHD referrals received between 2018 and 2023.

Table 2

Date	No. of Referrals Received
2018	1325
2019	1326
2020	970
2021	1249
2022	955
2023	816*

\* Figures from 1 January 2023 to 31 October 2023.

A4b. Adults

The Adult ADHD Service is unable to report on the number of ADHD referrals received between 2018 and 2023 as this information was not captured.

**Q5. *How many ADHD referrals did you accept each calendar year between 2018 and 2023? Please break this down between children and adults.***

A5a. Children's

Please see Table 3 for the number of ADHD referrals accepted between 2018 and 2023.

Table 3

Date	No. of Referrals Accepted
2018	764
2019	752
2020	555
2021	702
2022	792
2023	679*

\* Figures from 1 January 2023 to 31 October 2023.

A5b. Adults

The Adult ADHD Service is unable to report on the number of ADHD referrals accepted between 2018 and 2023 as this information was not captured.

**Q6. *What is the (mean) average time patients wait between referral and an assessment for ADHD for each calendar year between 2018 and 2023? If possible, please break this down between children and adults.***

A6a. Children's

Please see Table 4 for the average wait time between referral and an assessment for ADHD between 2018 and 2023.

Table 4

Date	Average Wait Time in Days
2018	141
2019	248
2020	409
2021	396
2022	443
2023	365*

\*Figures from 1 January 2023 to 31 October 2023.

**A6b. Adults**

The Trust has recognised the complex and specialised nature of ADHD and the necessity for diagnostic assessments, therefore, while no such service has been commissioned or funded, the Trust has moved to set up a specialist clinic – ADHD Service for Adults (ASA).

Priority is afforded to patients transferred to ASA with an existing diagnosis and who are prescribed medication and require monitoring, as per National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines.

For patients awaiting a diagnostic assessment, the demand for ADHD assessment far outweighs capacity, which is resulting in long waiting times of several years.

Within the Trust, referrals are received through the Mental Health Assessment Centres located in Newtownards, Downpatrick and Lisburn, which offer a single point of entry for all referrals to Mental Health Services. Patients with a co-morbid mental health problem are offered a mental health assessment and managed appropriately, where necessary via the adult mental health core care pathway, in addition, to the ADHD Service for adults.