



20 June 2024

Our Ref: RFI58794

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to 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 24 May 2024.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by 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 Officer

Q1. Confirm the scope of services provided to adults (people 18 or older) seeking care for ADHD.

- A1. 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).
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. ADHD 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, referral if appropriate is made to ASA, where priority is afforded to patients transferred to ASA with an existing diagnosis and who are prescribed medication and require monitoring, as per NICE guidelines.

Q2. Since 2014 how many adults (18 or older) - if available please separate the data by gender:

- a. have been referred for a diagnosis;
b. been assessed; and
c. received a diagnosis.**

A2a. Have been referred for a diagnosis

As a non-commissioned service and due to migrating to the new Encompass system, the Trust can only provide an approximate figure at this time. The approximate figure for the number of adults who have been referred for a diagnosis is in the region of 1300+.

A2b,c. Been assessed; and c-received a diagnosis

As a non-commissioned service, the Trust do not have the capacity to provide diagnostic assessments or diagnostics until commissioning is received.

Q3. What is the average waiting time for an assessment for adults seeking an ADHD diagnosis?

- A3. For patients awaiting a diagnostic assessment, the demand for ADHD assessment far outweighs capacity, which is resulting in long waiting times of several years until commissioned funding is available.

Q4. How many specialist consultants/ psychiatrists able to diagnose ADHD are currently in place?

A4. ASA consists of 1 whole time equivalent Locum Consultant.

Q5. How many adults with diagnosed ADHD are currently registered with the trust and how many are on medication.

A5. There are approximately 1400 diagnosed patients and approximately 700 patients are medicated and reviewed.