

Ref. No: 1933
Date: 22/07/25
Subject: ADHD and Autism assessments and post-diagnostic services

REQUEST & RESPONSE

This is a Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “Act”). Please provide the following information you have pertaining to ADHD and Autism assessments and post-diagnostic services within your Trust / Health Board.

I have included tables below so you can see how the data should be broken down. However, if possible, please use the excel spreadsheet attached to the request to input the data.

- Please provide your total annual spend and total number of patients (for each of the last three financial years) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by age categories as listed below.**

**For definition of “third party private providers” please see below. An example list of providers (for ADHD) can be found [here](#)*

TOTAL		Apr-22- Mar-23	Apr-23- Mar-24	Apr-24- Mar-25
ADHD assessments – patients 18 years old and over	Total number of patients			
	Total annual spend			
ADHD assessments	Total number of			

– patients <18 years old	patients			
	Total annual spend			
Autism assessments - patients 18 years old and over	Total number of patients			
	Total annual spend			
Autism assessments - patients <18 years old	Total number of patients			
	Total annual spend			

2. For Apr-24-Mar-25, please split out the total number of patients / annual spend from question 1 by those delivered in-house vs those delivered by third party private providers* (for Apr-24-Mar-25). Please use one row for each third party private provider and please also include the pathway / contract type for each third party private provider (e.g. block contract, right to choose):

Provider		Apr-24-Mar-25				
	Pathway	ADHD – 18 years old and over patient numbers	ADHD – <18 years old patient numbers	Autism – 18 years old and over patient numbers	Autism – 18 years old patient numbers	Total annual spend
Example: Provider A	Right to Choose	X	X	X	X	£Xk

<i>Example: Provider B</i>	<i>Block contract</i>	X	X	X	X	£Xk
<i>Example: In-house delivery</i>	<i>n/a</i>	X	X	X	X	<i>n/a</i>
Total (should align with question 1 total for Apr- 24-Mar- 25)		X	X	X	X	£Xk

3. For Apr-24-Mar-25, please provide your total annual spend on the following post-diagnostic services. Please find definitions for post-diagnostic services at the end of the request. Please include volumes where your Trust / Health Board has commissioned third party provider(s) to deliver the service.

Annual spend	Prescriptions	Medication	Therapies	Psychoeducation	Other support services
ADHD – patients 18 years old and over					
ADHD – patients <18 years old					
Autism - patients 18 years old and over					

Autism - patients <18 years old					
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4. What is the FTE of employed clinicians in the Trust / Health Board who can conduct ADHD / Autism assessments, or prescribe ADHD medications? If possible, please split by role type. Please provide answers based on FTE (rather than headcount). Please exclude vacancies.

	ADHD assessments	Autism assessments	ADHD prescriptions
Psychiatrists			
Paediatricians			
Specialist nurses			
Speech and language therapists			
Clinical psychologists			
Social workers			
Other			
Total (FTE)			

5. Please provide the current number of patients, that are currently waiting for an ADHD or Autism assessment at your Trust / Health Board. Please also provide the average (mean) time spent on the wait list before receiving an assessment at your Trust / Health Board. Please include the date which your figures are based on.

	ADHD assessments	Autism assessments
Number of patients (18 years old and over)		
Average wait time (18 years old and over)		
Number of patients (<18 years old)		
Average wait time (<18 years old)		

Definitions:

1. **Third-party private providers**

Refers to independent, non-NHS organisations contracted to deliver ADHD and / or Autism services. These providers operate outside of NHS Trusts / ICBs / Health Boards and typically deliver services such as assessments, prescribing, post-diagnostic support, and therapy. Examples may include (but are not limited to) ADHD 360, Psychiatry UK, Clinical Partners, and Evolve Psychology. These providers may deliver services under direct contracts with the ICB, via framework agreements, or under the NHS Right to Choose pathway.

2. **Prescriptions**

Refers to the administrative cost of issuing and managing prescriptions. This includes clinical time spent generating repeat prescriptions, as well as costs related to digital or manual prescription systems.

Note: This does not include the cost of the medication itself (see 'Medication').

3. Medication

Refers to the actual cost of purchasing and supplying medicines, including stimulants and non-stimulants (e.g. methylphenidate, atomoxetine, guanfacine). This includes the drug cost, as invoiced by the provider or pharmacy.

4. Therapies

Refers to post-diagnostic therapeutic interventions, such as talking therapies, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), counselling, behavioural coaching, occupational therapy, or speech and language therapy, where these are part of the ADHD or Autism treatment pathway.

5. Psychoeducation

Refers to structured sessions aimed at helping patients, families and/or schools understand and manage ADHD or Autism. This may include workshops, group education programmes, or 1:1 educational support on condition management, lifestyle strategies, or behaviour planning.

6. Other Support Services

Refers to additional post-assessment services not captured under therapy or psychoeducation. This may include digital tools, care coordination, coaching, employment or educational support, or clinician-led review sessions that do not fall under prescribing or therapy categories.

RESPONSE

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we are unable to comply with your request in its current form. This is because the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting the requested information is estimated to exceed the appropriate cost limit as defined in Section 12 of the Act.

Under Section 12(1) of the Act, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit. For NHS Trusts, this limit is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as

outlined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, the information you have requested—particularly in relation to the number of completed ADHD and Autism assessments and associated spend, cannot be extracted directly from our systems. Due to the structure of our clinical systems (including the use of triage spreadsheets and the limitations of our PAS system, SystmOne), it is not possible to generate accurate figures without conducting a manual review of over 2,000 patient records.

We estimate that it would take approximately 15 minutes per patient to review the relevant records, resulting in a total of 534 hours of staff time. This equates to a cost of £13,356, which significantly exceeds the statutory limit.