

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.23.2954

**Date Received:** 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2023

**Information Requested:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information on waiting times for ADHD assessments in England:

1. The number of undiagnosed children (under the age of 18) currently on the waiting list for an ADHD assessment on the NHS.  
 65 waiting as at 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023

1a. Please can you also provide the same information for each of the past five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.  
 We are unable to provide any years further back as we have only been the provider of this service since March 2022

2. The current average waiting time for an undiagnosed child (under the age of 18) to see a psychiatrist for ADHD assessment after being referred from a GP on the NHS.  
 31 weeks

2a. the longest waiting time for a child currently on the list.  
 Currently waiting for diagnosis is 95 weeks. This patient attended an appointment in May where the clinician requested a further appointment in June for diagnosis. Once the patient's diagnosis has been given the longest wait is 65 weeks.

2b. Please can you also provide the average wait time for each of the past five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.  
 We are unable to provide any years further back as we have only been the provider of this service since March 2022

3. How many child assessments were done in the past year? Please provide the total and (if available) a breakdown by gender.

Assessed 22-23		
Male	Female	Total
291	121	412

3a. Please can you also provide this same information for each of the prior five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.  
 We are unable to provide any years further back as we have only been the provider of this service since March 2022

4. The current average waiting time for a child (under the age of 18) between ADHD diagnosis and starting treatment on the NHS. Please provide the total and (if available) a breakdown by type of treatment (medication or behavioural therapy)  
 We are unable to provide the average time taken between diagnosis and treatment as in some instances these can occur at the same time and we cannot differentiate

between the two. To do so would require a manual trawl through patient records to identify the activity that stopped the RTT clocks for hundreds of patients.

- 4a. the longest waiting time between diagnosis and treatment for a child currently on the list.

As stated above, we are unable to provide this answer.

- 4b. Please can you also provide the average wait time for each of the past five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.

We are unable to provide any years further back as we have only been the provider of this service since March 2022

5. The number of undiagnosed adults currently on the waiting list for an ADHD assessment on the NHS.

As at 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 there are 2309 adults waiting for an ADHD assessment.

- 5a. Please can you also provide the same information for each of the past five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit

The North East and West Adult ADHD Service commenced in August 2021 and the MSE Adult service in March 2022. The MSE service started with an existing 400 people waiting in Mid Essex.

Waiting as at 31Mar22	Waiting as at 31Mar23
246	2171

6. The current average wait time for an undiagnosed adult to see a psychiatrist for ADHD after being referred from a GP on the NHS.

The current wait (as at 11th May 23) is 21 weeks

- 6a. The longest waiting time for an adult currently on the list.

The Longest wait (as at 11th May 2023) is 112 weeks

- 6b. Please can you also provide the average wait time for each of the past five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.

The North East and West Adult ADHD Service commenced in August 2021 and the MSE Adult service in March 2022. The MSE service started with an existing 400 people waiting in Mid Essex.

Ave Wait (wks) 2021/22	Ave Wait (wks) 2022/23
29.7	17.7

7. How many adult assessments were done in the past year? Please provide the total and (if available) a breakdown by gender.

The North East and West Adult ADHD Service commenced in August 2021 and the MSE Adult service in March 2022. The MSE service started with an existing 400 people waiting in Mid Essex.

Assessed 22-23		
Male	Female	Total
33	35	68

- 7a. Please can you also provide this same information for each of the prior five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.

We are unable to provide any years further back as we have only been the provider of this service since March 2022

8. The current average waiting time for an adult between ADHD diagnosis and starting treatment on the NHS. Please provide the total and (if available) a breakdown by type of treatment (medication or behavioural therapy)

We provide psychoeducation groups in both services although our MSE service has only just finished their first group. This group is available to all and individuals will be offered the next available group once a confirmed diagnosis has been given.

For the MSE team the waiting time for a medication appointment is approximately 8 months from referral in (for those already diagnosed) or from confirmation of diagnosis. The timescale in NE/West service is approximately a year.

- 8a. The longest waiting time between diagnosis and treatment for an adult currently on the list.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, but may be recorded in individual records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

- 8b. Please can you also provide the average wait time for each of the past five years, if doing so won't push this request over the cost limit.

We are unable to provide any years further back as we have only been the provider of this service since March 2022

**Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):**

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
  - (a) by one person, or
  - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated

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#### **Publication Scheme:**

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT’s Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk>