

## Freedom of Information Request

**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.23.2989  
**Date Received:** 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

### Information Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting access to information on waiting times and diagnoses for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) within your trust for the years 2019-2022.

Specifically, I would like the following information:

Please note the North East and the West Essex Service for adults commenced in August 2021 and Mid Essex Service for adults commenced in July 2022

The children's ADHD service commenced March 2022.

Under the previous provider for children's service, there was no provision for QB testing of ADHD. Once Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) publicised to the community that we were offering a local service, referrals quickly came in, on top of a referral backlog that EPUT inherited.

1. The number of patients referred for an assessment for ADHD and the referral source, such as self-referral, GP referral, or referral from a school or educational institution.

Please note that the Trust's policy is not to provide patient or staff numbers, where the response is less than or equal to five ( $\leq 5$ ) as it would potentially allow identification of the individual patient/staff and would therefore be personal data.

The trust considers that release of that information would breach GDPR/DPA18 principles on the grounds that it would not be fair in all the circumstances. This information is therefore exempt under section 40 of the FOI Act 2000.

Referral Source	Calendar Year		Total
	2021	2022	
GP	124	1328	1452
Internal Referral		$\leq 5$	$\leq 5$
Mental Health Service	$\leq 5$	56	61
Other Health Professionals	$\leq 5$	35	37
Primary Care Networks	93	102	195
Single Point Access	36	522	558
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2047</b>	<b>2307</b>

Source of Children ADHD Referrals Mar-Dec 2022	
Children and Family Services	$\leq 5$
Clinical Psychologist	$\leq 5$
Consultants/Associate Practitioners	25
Early Help	10
EHC Panel	$\leq 5$
EPUT Lighthouse Community Paediatrics	91
ERS	0

Source of Children ADHD Referrals Mar-Dec 2022	
GP	886
Health Visitors	14
Hospital	≤5
Medway	11
Occupational Therapist	0
Other Allied Health Professionals	484
Other Paediatric Community Services	6
Paediatrician	≤5
School Health Advisors	9
SENCO - Education	≤5
Social Care	≤5
Specialist Children's Services	12
Speech & Language Therapist	≤5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1567</b>

2. The average waiting times for an initial assessment and diagnosis of ADHD.

Average Wait (weeks) as at Calendar Year End	Calendar Year	
	2021	2022
	11.68	22.69

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. We are unable to provide an accurate average waiting time for ADHD diagnosed children in 2022, to do so would require a manual trawl through patient records following changes to clinical systems in 2022. 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.

3. The number of patients formally diagnosed with ADHD.

Diagnosed in Service	Calendar Year	
	2021	2022
	9	84

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4. The percentage of patients referred for an assessment for ADHD who are diagnosed with the condition.

% of Patients referred for an assessment for ADHD who are diagnosed with the condition.	Calendar Year	
	2021	2022
	8%	4%

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5. The average waiting times for treatment following an ADHD diagnosis.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. We are unable to provide the average time taken between diagnosis and treatment for children, 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 referral to treatment clock for each one. 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.

6. The types of treatments offered to patients, such as medication or psychotherapy

There is a psychoeducation group within both adult services and the topics are ADHD symptoms and diagnosis; ADHD causes, brain chemistry, exercise and diet; medication, sleep and sexual health; impulsive spending, money management and risk prevention; organisational systems, prioritising; attention, memory, motivation (reducing distractions); relationships, work and socialising ; CBT – thoughts, feelings, emotions). The service offers medication titration and stabilisation and annual reviews for this.

The treatment offered to child ADHD patients are:- psychoeducation, sleep hygiene and medication.

7. The number of people currently on your waiting list.

As at 12<sup>th</sup> June there are **2735** across both the NE/West and MSE services waiting for an Assessment on the Adult Service waiting list.

As at 12<sup>th</sup> June there were **816** patients in the children’s service on the ADHD diagnosis pathway, at various stages within it, not yet diagnosed.

8. The longest wait time of any patient currently on your waiting list.

As at 12<sup>th</sup> June, the longest wait of a patient for an assessment on the adult waiting list is **97** weeks.

As at 12<sup>th</sup> June, the longest wait of a patient for ADHD diagnosis on the children’s waiting list is **67** weeks.

To ensure the data is as useful as possible and make meaningful comparisons, I would be grateful if the above information could be provided in a spreadsheet format, with the data broken down by standard NHS age bands/brackets and gender for each year. It would also be useful to include ethnicities and socioeconomic information, such as income or employment status, if that data is held.

**Section 40 (Personal information):**

- (1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
- (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—
  - (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
  - (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.
- (3) The first condition is—
  - (a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “data” in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene—
    - (i) any of the data protection principles, or
    - (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and
  - (b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.
- (4) The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 2018 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject’s right of access to personal data).
- (5) The duty to confirm or deny—
  - (a) does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1), and
  - (b) does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that either—
    - (i) the giving to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 2018 or would do so if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of that Act were disregarded, or
    - (ii) by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 2018 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(a) of that Act (data subject’s right to be informed whether personal data being processed).
- (6) In determining for the purposes of this section whether anything done before 24th October 2007 would contravene any of the data protection principles, the exemptions in Part III of Schedule 8 to the Data Protection Act 2018 shall be disregarded.

- (7) In this section— “the data protection principles” means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;
- “data subject” has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act;
  - “personal data” has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.

**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>