

## Freedom of Information Request

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**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.23.2940 (001)

**Date Received:** 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

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**Information Requested:**

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please will you provide me with information relating to the waiting lists for Adult and CYP ADHD and ASD referrals? I am seeking:

Answers the following questions with data as of end of last month:

In terms of adult ASD and ADHD services we are aware of the long waits and high volume of referrals that we, as well as other similar NHS services nationwide are experiencing. In view of this where possible:-

- We ensure that referrers let individuals know the waiting times for assessment
- We write out to individuals regularly to let them know we are still aware they are on our list and to let us know if anything changes in their circumstances.
- Where there are risks or individuals are struggling we arrange regular check in contacts with our Assistant Practitioner if appropriate or someone else from the team if it needs to be a qualified clinician
- We will make onward referrals for individuals around circumstances that change so for examples to the employment specialist service and Summit advocacy services

Commissioners are aware of the high demand for services and we are working closely with them to improve the situation with regard to ASD and ADHD services for local individuals and their families

**ADHD**

1. How many adults are waiting for a first appointment following referral?

2669 waiting as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

2. How many CYP are waiting for a first appointment following referral?

743 waiting as at 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

3. How long are Adults waiting for a first appointment?

The average time the 2669 patients were waiting as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 was 26 weeks

4. How long are Adults waiting for an assessment and diagnosis?

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.

5. How long are CYP waiting for a first appointment?

The average time the 743 patients were waiting as at 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 was 9 weeks.

6. How long are CYP waiting for an assessment and diagnosis?

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.

ASD

7. How many adults are waiting for a first appointment following referral?

1042 waiting as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

8. How many CYP are waiting for a first appointment following referral?

1140 waiting as at 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

9. How long are Adults waiting for a first appointment?

In 2022/23 the average wait times were 16wks in North Essex and 60wks in South Essex. The service in NE Essex is a relatively new one which started in September 2022 and has been commissioned with recognition of the greater volume of referrals we have seen over recent years.

10. How long are Adults waiting for an assessment and diagnosis?

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.

11. How long are CYP waiting for a first appointment?

The average time the 1140 patients were waiting as at 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 was 17 weeks.

12. How long are CYP waiting for an assessment and diagnosis?

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.

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**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>