



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2025/10935

Date Received: 22nd July 2025

Response Due: 19th August 2025

Date: 19th August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 22nd July 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

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.

- 1. 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.**

Autism Assessments - Autism assessments under 18 years old, figures from the School Age ASC Pathway who accept referrals for children age 4-16. The service facilitates an assessment process co-ordinating the collection of information and referral for face-to-face assessments by other services, culminating in a multi-agency panel for diagnosis of Autism. Each patient who meets the criteria to go on for face-to-face assessments requires a minimum of two assessments from different clinicians/disciplines in order to be discussed at panel.

****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	Total number of patients	The Trust does not have a service for adult assessments for ADHD and Autism.		

– patients 18 years old and over	Total annual spend			
ADHD assessments – patients <18 years old	Total number of patients	The Trust is unable to provide this information as clinics are mixed with various neuro-disabilities, and we are unable to differentiate between those for ADHD specifically. Therefore, the Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.		
	Total annual spend			
Autism assessments - patients 18 years old and over	Total number of patients	The Trust does not have a service for adult assessments for ADHD and Autism.		
	Total annual spend			
Autism assessments - patients <18 years old	Total number of patients	1,289 total referrals into the service per financial year.	2,075 total referrals into the service per financial year.	1,545 total referrals into the service per financial year.
	Total annual spend	£221,814.	£232,439.	£208,091.

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):

Autism Assessments - No third-party provision has been utilised by the School Age ASC pathway for the provision of diagnosis pathway.

Please see the above response for ADHD assessments.

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	The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.				
ADHD – patients <18 years old					
Autism -					

patients 18 years old and over	
Autism - patients <18 years old	

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.
- Autism Assessments - The below breakdown shows the resource within the Community Division that currently conduct assessments. The Speech & Language Therapists sit within the division but not directly for the School Age Autism Pathway team. The other 0.3wte is the time each week for the pathway manager spent conducting ADOS assessments to alleviate long waits for social communication assessment within the division.

	ADHD assessments	Autism assessments	ADHD prescriptions
Psychiatrists	-	-	-
Paediatricians	-	-	-
Specialist nurses	-	-	1.88 WTE *for prescribing only.
Speech and language therapists	-	1.4 WTE	-
Clinical psychologists	-	-	-
Social workers	-	-	-
Other	6.60 WTE *we cannot split consultant time as ADHD forms part of their wider role as a community paediatrician, and we do not have specific clinics.	0.3 WTE	-
Total (FTE)	6.60 WTE	1.7 WTE	1.88 WTE

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.

Autism Assessments - Total patients currently open to the School Age ASC Pathway for assessment and diagnosis, this number includes all patients referred who remain at information gathering and assessment stage and those awaiting a multi-agency panel discussion for outcome/diagnosis.

	ADHD assessments	Autism assessments
Number of patients (18 years old and over)	The Trust does not have a service for adult assessments for ADHD and Autism.	
Average wait time (18 years old and over)		
Number of patients	809	2,470

(<18 years old)		
Average wait time (<18 years old)		Average wait of 49.29 weeks as of Month 3 2025/26.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Vicky Bateson
Senior Directorate Manager - Division of Surgery

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111