

Question:

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information regarding ADHD assessments within the Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, Southern, and Western Health and Social Care Trusts. Please provide the data broken down by each Trust where possible.

Adult ADHD Assessments

1. How many adults do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?
2. How many adults were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026)?
3. If an adult was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?
4. Please describe your current Adult ADHD Assessment pathway.

Child ADHD Assessments

5. How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?
6. How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).
7. If a child was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?
8. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.

Response:

The Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) of the Department of Health (DOH) do not hold the information you have requested.

There is currently no commissioned service for ADHD in Northern Ireland and therefore HSC Trusts do not regularly provide the DOH with information on ADHD waiting times. The DOH on occasion seeks information for ADHD wait times from individual Trusts to respond to specific questions.

The DOH does not hold current information or end of year information on ADHD assessment waiting lists or activity.

As ADHD services are not commissioned there is no regionally commissioned ADHD Assessment pathway. You may wish to contact the HSC Trusts who may be in a position to provide further information. Contact details are included, see appendix 1.

The DOH produced a Needs Assessment Review to develop proposals for a commissioned Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Service across Trusts, encompassing both children and adult services and ensuring regional consistency in the context of future plans for a Regional Mental Health Service. The Review aims to determine the level of demand for a commissioned service, as well as recommendations for what such a service might look like, including potential implementation and staffing costs. The ADHD Needs Assessment Report includes descriptions of care pathways from each HSCT at the time the report was commissioned. A copy is attached for information, see appendix 2.

Appendices may be requested from the Information Management Branch (IMB) if required at the following address:

- FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

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