

Reference:	FOI.12009.23
Subject:	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and military referrals
Date of Request:	20 June 2023

Requested:

1. Do you accept referrals for currently serving Military Personnel for an ADHD Assessment.
2. If the answer to (1) is “no”, to what agency or service do you direct the serving military person to.
3. If the answer to (1) is “yes”, how many referrals have you received, by year, for the last 5 years.
4. How many assessments for ADHD have you completed, by year, for the last 5 years, for currently serving Military Personnel.
5. How many positive ADHD diagnosis have you made, by year, for the last 5 years, for currently serving Military Personnel.
6. Do you prioritise currently serving Military Personnel for an ADHD assessment.
7. What categories of people do you prioritise for an adult ADHD assessment.
8. What support do you offer to currently serving military personnel who you diagnose with ADHD.
9. What is your current waiting time for all adult referrals for an ADHD Assessment.
10. How many Shared Care Agreements do you currently have for serving military personnel.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the requested data for questions 3, 4 and 5, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all adult ADHD patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request, as this information is not held centrally.

As one hundred and forty nine (149) referrals for an adult ADHD assessment were received during the 2018/19 financial year only, conducting a search to identify any information relevant to your request, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

149 @ 15 minutes per item = 37.25 hours
37.25 hours @ £25 per hour = £931.25

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that it does receive adult ADHD assessment referrals that include serving military personnel.
2. Not applicable
3. The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of ADHD referrals received for military personnel, as per the Section 12 exemption. However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of adult ADHD assessment referrals received, during the 2018/19 to 2022/23 financial years.

Financial year	Number of referrals
2018/19	149
2019/20	224
2020/21	224
2021/22	689
2022/23	1,092

4. & 5. Section 12 exemption applied.
6. The UHB confirms that if the service was made aware that a referral was for serving military personnel, then they would be prioritised. However, this detail is not requested in a specific question on the current referral form. The UHB is currently reviewing its processing of ADHD referrals, including the referral forms, and will be considering asking specifically if the individual is a current serving military worker, which will make identifying those in the military easier.
7. The UHB confirms that it prioritises people in terms of the impact that ADHD symptoms are having on functioning and would screen for evidence of significant impairments on daily functioning. However, the UHB's ADHD Service is a specialist service, and therefore, cannot offer any crisis management or see people who are in acute Mental Health Crisis.
8. The UHB confirms that current serving military personnel with a diagnosis of ADHD are supported with the offer of pharmacological interventions (medication), resources are shared and they are signposted to other relevant services. Additionally, the ADHD service is currently developing a pre and post support approach.
9. The UHB, provides, within the table below, the number of adults waiting for an ADHD assessment and the current waiting times, as at 21 June 2023.

Waiting time	Number waiting
Less than 12 weeks	343
13-17 weeks	146

18-25 weeks	164
26-35 weeks	236
35-51	271
52 weeks and over	1,071

10. The UHB confirms that Shared Care Agreements are currently being developed with its local Primary Care Services.