

Reference:	FOI.16907.25
Subject:	Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessment wait times
Date of Request:	21 March 2025

Requested:

Waiting times for assessments:

- 1a. The average waiting times for adult ADHD diagnosis assessments in the years:
- 2021
 - 2022
 - 2023
 - 2024
 - Current waiting list times
- 1b. The average waiting times for adult autism assessments in the same years listed above.
- 1c. The longest recorded waiting times for an individual patient for each year from 2021 to 2024 (to date).

Assessment outcomes:

- 2a. The number of individuals assessed for ADHD in each year (2021-2024 to date) and how many received a diagnosis.
- 2b. The number of individuals assessed for autism in each year (2021-2024 to date) and how many received a diagnosis.

Medication prescriptions (for ADHD-diagnosed individuals):

- 3a. Of those diagnosed with ADHD in each year (2021-2024 to date), how many patients were prescribed medication as part of their treatment?

If possible, I would appreciate the data in a table format, or a breakdown by month or quarter, if available.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with 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 Act 2000 and the 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 information on the number of those who received a diagnosis for 2a and 2b, along with the information on medication prescriptions for question 3, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all adult ADHD and ASD patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not held centrally.

For questions 2a and 2b only, seven hundred and seventy six (776) individuals were assessed for ADHD and ASD during the 2021 to 2024 calendar years, conducting a search to identify how many of those subsequently received a diagnosis, would far exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following:

776 @ 15 minutes per item = 194 hours

194 hours @ £25 per hour = £4,850

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, the UHB has a duty 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.

1a. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the average wait time in weeks, for adult ADHD diagnosis assessments, during the 2021 to 2024 calendar years.

Year	Wait time
2021	137 weeks
2022	143 weeks
2023	140 weeks
2024	126 weeks

The UHB is unable to provide the current average wait, as the live system used within the service does not record information in this format. Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of adults referred for an ADHD diagnosis assessment and the number of weeks waiting, as of February 2025.

Number of weeks waiting	Number of patients
1 to 11 weeks	91
12 to 17 weeks	85
18 to 25 weeks	160
26 to 35 weeks	252
36 to 51 weeks	418
52 weeks or more	3015

1b. The UHB provides, within the table below, the average wait times in weeks, for adult ASD assessments, during the 2021 to 2024 calendar years.

Year	Wait time
2021	76 weeks
2022	91 weeks
2023	90 weeks
2024	148 weeks

As described in response to 1a, the UHB is unable to provide the information exactly as requested. Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the number of adults referred for an ASD diagnosis assessment and the number of weeks waiting, as of February 2025.

Number of weeks waiting	Number of patients
1 to 11 weeks	119
12 to 17 weeks	79
18 to 25 weeks	114
26 to 35 weeks	104
36 to 51 weeks	194
52 weeks or more	1430

1c. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the longest recorded wait times for ADHD and ASD assessment, for an individual patient, during the 2021 to 2024 calendar years.

Year	Adult ADHD	Adult ASD
2021	319 weeks	214 weeks
2022	401 weeks	256 weeks
2023	448 weeks	273 weeks
2024	236 weeks	315 weeks

2a. & 2b - A Section 12 exemption has been applied to information on how many patients received a diagnosis following an assessment. However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of individuals assessed for ADHD and ASD during the 2021 to 2024 calendar years.

Year	ADHD	ASD
2021	21	96
2022	169	115
2023	159	72
2024	60	84

3. Section 12 exemption applied.