

Reference:	FOI.20623.26
Subject:	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessments
Date of Request:	5 June 2026

Requested:

1. How many adults have been diagnosed with ADHD yearly since 2020, until 2025
2. What is the average time an adult who is currently on the waitlist has been waiting for an ADHD assessment (as of 05/06/2026)
3. What is the longest amount of time an adult has been on the waitlist for an ADHD assessment (as of 05/06/2026)
4. How many adults were waiting for an ADHD diagnosis in 2021?
5. How many under 18s were diagnosed with ADHD yearly since 2020, until 2025
6. What is the average time an individual under 18 years old who is currently on the waitlist has been waiting for an ADHD assessment (as of 05/06/2026)
7. What is the longest amount of time an individual under 18 years old has been on the waitlist for an ADHD assessment (as of 05/06/2026)
8. How many individuals under 18 years old were waiting for an ADHD diagnosis on 05/06/2021?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 1, 5 and 8, 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 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To identify the information requested for questions 1 and 5, the UHB would need to manually search the records of all ADHD assessments undertaken for both adults and children and young people (CYP) during the time periods requested, to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

Additionally, for question 8, the UHB does not centrally record historical ADHD information for CYP. Therefore, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all CYP patient records prior to 5 June 2021, to identify any information that would fulfil this part your request.

The UHB has identified that four hundred and sixty-one (461) adult ADHD assessments were undertaken, during the period 1 April 2020 (the earliest date data is held) to 31 December 2025. It is estimated that a manual search of these records alone would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search, taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per record, would exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

461 @ 5 minutes per record = 38 hours and 25 minutes
38 hours and 25 minutes @ £25 per hour = £960.42

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

The UHB suggests that you may refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested to a three (3) month period e.g. 1 October to 31 December 2025. However, the UHB would still be required to undertake a manual trawl of all adult ADHD assessments undertaken during the refined period, to identify the information required to fulfil your request. Therefore, the outcome would be dependent on the number of records identified within a shorter time period.

1. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA has been applied.
2. The average wait time for an adult ADHD assessment was one hundred and eight (108) weeks, as at 5 June 2026.
3. The longest wait time for an adult ADHD assessment was three hundred and ninety-four (394) weeks, as at 5 June 2026.
4. There were one thousand and ninety-one (1,091) adults on the waiting list for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 December 2021.
5. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA has been applied.
6. The UHB does not hold the requested information. However, the UHB can confirm that the current wait time for an ADHD assessment for CYP, is eighteen (18) months.
7. The longest wait time for an ADHD assessment for CYP was one hundred and two (102) weeks, as at 5 June 2026.
8. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA has been applied, Under Section 16, the UHB has responded to a previous Freedom of Information request (FOI.380.21), and there were three hundred and eighty (380) CYP waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 1 August 2021.