

Reference:	FOI.17170.25
Subject:	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
Date of Request:	28 April 2025

Request and response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all 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.

The UHB does not centrally record all information relating to ADHD for Children and Young People (CYP). Therefore, in order to provide you with all of the data requested for Section B questions 13, 17 and 18, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all CYP patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request.

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 overleaf.

The UHB has also applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to a part of questions 1a and 2a within Section A of your request, as the contract costs relate to a third party and would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company.

Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company’s position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors.
- Damage a company’s business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public’s interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against Disclosure: Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and may cause substantial harm to the provider, as it would disclose their pricing, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

Decision: - The UHB has consulted with the third party and has taken their comments into consideration. It has therefore been decided that releasing all of the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the provider's competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body, and that there is a public interest in ensuring that there is competition for public sector contracts.

The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the contract cost for its outsourced ADHD assessments, is greater than the interest in disclosing it.

The remainder of the information requested has been provided overleaf.

Section A

1. Does your organisation commission Adult ADHD Assessments? If yes, please list:

- a. the organisation or organisations in receipt of commission from you alongside the contract value for the last public sector financial year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) and the current public sector financial year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026).

The UHB confirms that it does not currently commission adult ADHD assessments. However, the UHB did commission Problem Shared (Tele-doctor) to undertake adult ADHD assessments, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

A Section 43 exemption has been applied to the contract value for the commissioned assessments to be undertaken by Problem Shared, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

2. Does your organisation commission Child ADHD Assessments? If yes, please list:

- a. the organisation or organisations in receipt of commission from you alongside the contract value for the last public sector financial year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) and the current public sector financial year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026).

The UHB confirms that it does not currently commission ADHD assessment for Children and Young People (CYP). However, the UHB did commission Problem Shared (Tele-doctor) to undertake CYP ADHD assessments, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

A Section 43 exemption has been applied to the contract value for the commissioned assessments to be undertaken by Problem Shared, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

3. Does your organisation undertake Adult ADHD Assessments? If yes, please list:

- a. the organisation or organisations that have contracted you to provide the ADHD Assessment service alongside the financial contract value for the last public sector financial year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) and the current public sector financial year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026).

The UHB confirms that it does undertake adult ADHD assessments. Assessments are undertaken by the UHB's adult ADHD service and dual diagnosis trained practitioners working in the adult Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) service.

Clinical pathways have been developed within the Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT), whereby clinicians diagnose ADHD with co-occurring substance misuse. Pathways are also being developed within the adult ADHD service, whereby service users who are subject to Care and Treatment Plans (CTP) as part of the Mental Health Measure (Wales), will be assessed and titrated by clinicians working within Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT).

The UHB is part of NHS Wales and is an integrated Local Health Board responsible for the planning and provision of primary, community and in hospital services, based on the needs of the local community across three (3) counties. The UHB is therefore responsible for the delivery of its own services and has not been commissioned by an external provider to deliver these services.

4. Does your organisation undertake Child ADHD Assessments? If yes, please list:

- a. the organisation or organisations that have contracted you to provide the ADHD Assessment service alongside the financial contract value for the last public sector financial year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) and the current public sector financial year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026).

The UHB confirms that it does undertake CYP ADHD assessments. Assessments are undertaken by the UHB's Paediatric and Childrens services.

As detailed within our response to question 3, the UHB is not commissioned by another body to provide these services.

Section B

Please could you provide the information for the last public sector year (the period covering 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025).

1. The number of Adult ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period.

Fourteen (14) adult ADHD assessments were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year.

Please note:- the figure provided is low due to resources being utilised to target the titration list, made up of service users requiring medication to manage ADHD symptoms.

2. The number of Adults waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of that period.

Four thousand, two hundred and thirty-seven (4,237) adults were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2025.

3. The number of Adults waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the date of receipt of this FOI request.

The most recent data held has been provided in response to question 2.

4. The number of Child ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period.

Six hundred and twenty-two (622) CYP ADHD assessments were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year.

5. The number of Children waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of that period.

Eight hundred and sixty-six (866) CYP were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2025.

6. The number of Children waiting for an ADHD Assessment as of the date of receipt of this FOI request.

Eight hundred and fifty-eight (858) CYP were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 28 April 2025.

If it does not take us over the FOI cost threshold, then please can we ask similar questions for the prior public sector year. For the period covering 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

7. The number of Adult ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period.

One hundred and twenty-seven (127) adult ADHD assessments were undertaken during the 2023/24 financial year.

8. The number of Adults waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of that period.

Three thousand, one hundred and seventy (3,170) adults were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2024.

9. The number of Child ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period.

Six hundred (600) CYP ADHD assessments were undertaken during the 2023/24 financial year.

10. The number of Children waiting for an ADHD Assessment in that period.

Seven hundred and forty-five (745) CYP were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2024.

If it does not take us over the FOI cost threshold, then please can we ask the same questions for the public sector, the year before the above. For the period covering 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

11. The number of Adult ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period.

Two hundred and eighteen (218) adult ADHD assessments were undertaken during the 2022/23 financial year.

12. The number of Adults waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of that period.

One thousand, nine hundred and eighty-eight (1,988) adults were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2023.

13. The number of Child ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period.

Section 12 exemption applied.

14. The number of Children waiting for an ADHD Assessment in that period.

Six hundred and eighty (680) CYP were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2023.

If it does not take us over the FOI cost threshold, then please can we ask the same questions for the public sector, the year before the above. For the period covering 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

15. The number of Adult ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period

Fifty-three (53) adult ADHD assessments were undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year.

16. The number of Adults waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of that period.

Eight hundred and eighty-nine (889) adults were waiting for an ADHD assessment, as at 31 March 2022.

17. The number of Child ADHD Assessments undertaken in that period

Section 12 exemption applied.

18. The number of Children waiting for an ADHD Assessment in that period.

Section 12 exemption applied.

Section C

If it does not take us over the FOI cost threshold, then please can we ask this additional set of questions

1. Did you pay out under Right to Choose for Adult ADHD Assessments in the prior public sector year? If yes:

- a. How many Adult ADHD Assessments were paid out under Right to Choose in the last public sector year (2024-25).
- b. What was the total value of Adult ADHD Assessments under Right to Choose in the last public sector year (2024-25).

- c. Please list the organisations you paid out for Adult ADHD Assessments under Right to Choose, alongside the total financial amount paid, and the quantity of Adult ADHD Assessments undertaken for the last public sector year (April 1st 2024- 31st March 2025).

The Right to Choose is applicable in England and therefore does not apply to the UHB as it is a part of NHS Wales.

2. Did you pay out under Right to Choose for Child ADHD Assessments in the prior public sector year? If yes:

- a. How many Child ADHD Assessments were paid out under Right to Choose in the last public sector year (2024-25)
- b. What was the total value of Child ADHD Assessments under Right to Choose in the last public sector year (2024-25).
- c. Please list the organisations you paid out for Child ADHD Assessments under Right to Choose, alongside the total financial amount paid, and the quantity of Child ADHD Assessments undertaken for the last public sector year (April 1st 2024- 31st March 2025).

Please see response to Section C, question 1.