

Reference:	FOI.20536.26
Subject:	Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments through the medium of Welsh
Date of Request:	27 May 2026

Requested:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the provision of autism diagnostic assessments through the medium of Welsh within your Health Board, Hywel Dda UHB.

Please could you provide the following information:

1. Does your Health Board currently offer autism diagnostic assessments through the medium of Welsh?
2. If Welsh-medium assessments are available:
 - a. How many Welsh-speaking clinicians are currently involved in delivering these assessments?
 - b. Are assessments conducted directly in Welsh or through the use of interpreters/translation services?
3. Please provide the current average waiting time for:
 - a. English-medium autism diagnostic assessments
 - b. Welsh-medium autism diagnostic assessments
4. During the last three financial years, how many patients have requested autism diagnostic assessments through the medium of Welsh?
5. During the last three financial years, how many Welsh-medium autism diagnostic assessments have been completed?
6. Does the Health Board have any current policy, strategy, action plan, or targets relating to increasing the availability of Welsh-medium neurodevelopmental or autism assessment services?
7. Please provide copies of any relevant policies, internal guidance documents, equality impact assessments, Welsh language compliance reports, or strategic plans relating to Welsh-medium autism or neurodevelopmental services.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it operates in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards that is a set of statutory requirements, stating clearly the UHB's responsibilities to provide bilingual services to patients and the public across all services. Welsh ASD assessments for children and young people (CYP) are provided by UHB staff, while Welsh ASD assessments for adults can be arranged, when required.
- 2a. The UHB does not have Welsh-speaking clinicians that undertake adult ASD assessments. However, the UHB has three (3) members of staff that can undertake an ASD assessment for CYP in Welsh.

- 2b. The UHB would be required to engage an interpretation service for an adult ASD assessment to be undertaken in Welsh. However, Welsh ASD assessments for CYP are undertaken directly by a Welsh speaking member of staff.
3. The average wait time across both English and Welsh mediums for an adult ASD assessment is six (6) years and seventy six (76) weeks for a CYP ASD assessment.
4. & 5. The UHB confirms that it has not received any requests or undertaken an adult ASD assessment in Welsh, during the 2023/24 to 2025/26 financial years.

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of CYP ASD assessments requested or undertaken in Welsh, due to the low number of cases (fewer than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

6. & 7. The UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) as the information requested is already in the public domain and is accessible by another means. Details of the UHB's responsibilities and compliance with the statutory Welsh Language Standards are available on the UHB's website. A link to the UHB's Welsh language services webpage has been provided below.

[Welsh language services - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#)

Additionally, the following policy is available on the UHB's website:

- Policy 333 – Bilingual Skills Policy

A link the UHB's policies and written control documents webpage has been provided below:

[Policies and written control documents - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#)