

Reference:	FOI.18251.25
Subject:	Data on Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),
Date of Request:	1 September 2025

Requested:

I would like the following information on ADHD diagnostic services for adults:

1. The monthly number of adults that were assessed for ADHD from January 2022 to December 2024.
2. The monthly number of adults receiving an official ADHD diagnosis from January 2022 to December 2024.
3. The latest figures showing number of adults waiting to be assessed for ADHD.
4. Current average waiting time.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 2 of your request, 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.

To identify how many patients were diagnosed with ADHD between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024, the UHB would need to undertake a trawl of all patients that had an ADHD assessment during this time period.

The UHB can confirm that three hundred and seventy-two (372) patients were assessed for ADHD between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024. Therefore, to provide you with the exact information being requested for question 2, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

372 @ 15 minutes per item = 93 hours
93 hours @ £25 per hour = £2,325.00

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, this can include assisting a requester to further refine their request.

In relation to the ADHD data requested under question 2, the UHB would be able to further consider your request if you were able to narrow down the timeframe of your request. For example, making a request for data for one month per year rather than the full years data etc. Refining your request

by providing a smaller timeframe, would enable the service to undertake a manual trawl of individual patient records, identifying any further information that may fulfil your request.

Aside from the Section 12 exemption detailed above, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for your further questions, below.

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients, by month, who received an ADHD assessment between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024.

It should be noted that during the 2024 calendar year, the titration of medication was prioritised over diagnostic assessment, hence the low number of assessments undertaken.

2022	No of Assessments	2023	No of Assessments	2024	No of Assessments
January	10	January	24	January	16
February	*	February	24	February	11
March	13	March	19	March	8
April	24	April	10	April	*
May	21	May	12	May	*
June	9	June	10	June	*
July	10	July	8	July	*
August	8	August	*	August	0
September	11	September	9	September	*
October	30	October	7	October	0
November	28	November	11	November	*
December	13	December	10	December	0

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, 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 defines 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.

2. The UHB has applied a section 12 exemption to this part of your request.
3. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of adults waiting for an ADHD assessment as at 31 July 2025, broken down by the wait time in weeks.

Waiting time for ADHD assessment	Number of Patients
1 to 11 weeks	475
12 to 17 weeks	104
18 to 25 weeks	215
26 to 35 weeks	275
36 to 51 weeks	397

52 weeks or more	3232
Totals	4698

4. The current average wait time for an adult ADHD assessment is 94 weeks.