Reference:	FOI.20798.26
Subject:	Expenditure with Healios for Neurodevelopmental assessments
Date of Request:	19 June 2026

Requested:

Please provide the following information in relation to Hywel Dda University Health Board's use of Healios:

1. Total expenditure to date (from the start of the contractual relationship to the present) on services provided by Healios for:
   a. Autism assessments and ADHD assessments
   b. This should include both Children and Young People (CYP) and adult services
   c. A year-by-year breakdown of this expenditure.

2. A breakdown of spending by:
   a. ADHD assessments
   b. Autism spectrum assessments
   c. ADHD medication services

3. The number of assessments completed by Healios, split by:
   a. CYP vs adults
   b. Assessment type (ADHD, ASD, medication)

4. Details of any framework agreements or contracts under which Healios has been engaged, including:
   a. Contract start and end dates
   b. Total contract value (if applicable)

5. The average cost per assessment paid to Healios, where available.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold all the information requested, as it's commissioned provider, Healios, has only undertaken Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments for children and young people (CYP).

The UHB has applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to questions 1, 2, 4b and 5 as the costs requested relate to a third party and disclosure 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 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 a 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 costs for its outsourced mental health service provider, is greater than the interest in disclosing it.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the information it holds overleaf.

1 & 2. An exemption under Section 43 of the FoIA has been applied.

3. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of ASD assessments undertaken for CYP by Healios, during the 2022/23 to 2025/26 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2022/23	98
2023/24	212
2024/25	700
2025/26	585

4a. The UHB confirms that the contract with Healios commenced on 1 April 2022 and ended 31 March 2026.

4b. An exemption under Section 43 of the FoIA has been applied.

5. An exemption under Section 43 of the FoIA has been applied.