

Reference:	FOI.20473.26
Subject:	Neurodiversity Services
Date of Request:	19 May 2026

Requested:

1. Please provide your total annual spend (for each of the last three financial years, FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/FY26) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by:
 - a. Total annual spend by third party private provider*
 - b. For each third party private provider, total annual spend by assessment type (ADHD / Autism)
2. Please provide your total number of patients (for each of the last three financial years, FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/FY26) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by:
 - a. Total number of patients assessed by third party private provider*
 - b. For each third party private provider, total number of patients assessed by assessment type (ADHD / Autism)
3. For each third party private provider, please indicate the contract type (block / activity-based), start date and end date

Please include volumes from NHS Trusts within your ICB that may deliver these services, and also third party private providers (or indicate if this is not possible)

FY is defined as a year starting in April and ending in March. For example, FY23/24 starts on 1 April 2023 and ends on 31 March 2024.

If exact spend by provider is not disclosable, please provide spend in bands (e.g., <£0.5m; £0.5–1m; £1–2m; £2–5m; >£5m) or top 5 providers plus ‘all others’

*Third-party private providers Refers to independent, non-NHS organisations contracted to deliver ADHD and / or Autism services. These providers operate outside of NHS Trusts / ICBs / Health Boards and typically deliver services such as assessments, prescribing, post-diagnostic support, and therapy. Examples may include (but are not limited to) ADHD 360, Psychiatry UK, Clinical Partners, and Evolve Psychology. These providers may deliver services under direct contracts with the ICB, via framework agreements, or under the NHS Right to Choose pathway.

Response:

Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are a feature of the NHS in England. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is part of NHS Wales and is an integrated Local Health Board responsible for the health and well-being of its resident population of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The UHB plans and provides primary care, community services and in hospital services, together with mental health and learning disability services and population health, based on the needs of the local community across the three (3) counties. Therefore, the information relating to the UHB is provided below.

The UHB has applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to question 1, as the costs requested relate to third parties 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 providers, is greater than the interest in disclosing it.

1. An exemption under Section 43 of the FoIA has been applied. However, the UHB provides within the table below, the spend in bands, by provider, during the 2023/24 to 2025/26 financial years.

Financial year	Problem Shared		Helios	
	ADHD	ASD	ADHD	ASD
2023/24	0	>£0.5 million	0	>£0.5 million
2024/25	>£0.5 million	>£0.5 million	0	£1-2 million
2025/26	0	0	0	£0.5-1 million

2. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments outsourced, by provider, during the 2023/24 to 2025/26 financial years.

Financial year	Problem Shared		Helios	
	ADHD	ASD	ADHD	ASD

2023/24	0	167	0	212
2024/25	325	250	0	697
2025/26	0	0	0	585

3. The UHB provides within the table below, the contract type and contract start and end dates for the third party providers commissioned to undertake ADHD and ASD assessments, for the 2023/24 to 2025/26 financial years.

Financial year	Contract type	Start date	End date
2023/24	Activity based	April 2023	March 2025
2024/25	Block based	October 2024	March 2025
2025/26	Block based	January 2026	March 2026

Please note: the details provided above are the same for both providers.