

Our Ref: NG/RM/24306  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Nicola Griffiths  
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North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust  
Lawton House  
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ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

### Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### ***Requested information:***

**1. ADHD and Autism Assessments:**

- Please provide information on the current ADHD and Autism assessment backlog within your Trust.  
**As the demand for these specialist assessments has risen exponentially, we have generated a wait for assessment. As of the 09<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, the number of people waiting for their assessment to start are**  
**ASD- 2129**  
**ADHD- 1704.**
- Does your Trust currently use private healthcare providers to assist in delivering ADHD and Autism assessments (for Adults & Children)? **Yes- For ASD in Children and Young Peoples services**

#### **If applicable:**

- Please provide the names of these private healthcare providers. **Psicon**
- Please specify the cost per ADHD assessment and cost per Autism assessment.  
**The Trust is applying Section 43 exemption to this aspect of the request as release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).**
- Provide details regarding the scope and duration of any contractual agreements with these providers, including the turnaround timeframe for completion of outsourced ADHD and Autism assessments. **106 assessments to be completed by the end of the financial year.**
- What is the Trust annual budget to outsource ADHD and Autism assessments and what is the current annual spend?

**The Trust is applying Section 43 exemption to this aspect of the request as release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person in relation to the current spend.**

- How many ADHD and Autism assessments are outsourced each month and is their scope to increase this number? If so, by how many? **This was a one-off contractual agreement as part of a waiting list initiative.**
- Do your current provider/s have or offer the capacity to address the backlog within the Trusts required timeframes? **Ascertained as part of the procurement process.**
- Please provide the name and contact information of the individual/ team for the Trust who would manage the ADHD/Autism assessments (for Adults & Children).

**Neuro Diverse and Ageless Service Line- part of North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust Community Directorate.**

**Staff names and email addresses are exempt as they constitute personal data and would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 (in accordance with qualified exemption S40 (2)(a) of the FOI Act).**

## **2. Other Mental Health Assessments:**

- Does your Trust use private healthcare providers to assist in delivering any other types of mental health assessments outside of ADHD and Autism assessments? **No**
- If so, please specify what types of assessments these are, the names of the private healthcare providers involved, and the costs associated with these services. **N/A**
- Include details about the scope and duration of any contractual agreements for these services. **N/A**

If your Trust is not currently using private healthcare providers to help reduce or clear this assessment backlog, would you consider doing so now or in the future? **Not Currently**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



**Nicola Griffiths**  
**Deputy Director of Governance**