

Our Ref: NG/RM/26091
Date: 16th April 2026

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 24th March 2026. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding referrals to your Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), specifically relating to neurodevelopmental assessments (including Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD).

Please provide the following data for the most recent 3–5 year period available:

1. The total number of CAMHS referrals received.

8,103 Autism Assessment Service referrals

Please note the above information covers the period March-2021 to March-2026. Prior to the Trust having a specific CAMHS ADHD service created, CAMHS ADHD referrals were subsumed within our Core CAMHS Community Mental Health teams. As we are unable to extract ADHD specific referrals from our Core CAMHS Community Mental Health teams referrals, we are unable to provide an accurate response to the requestor in relation to ADHD referrals within the most recent 3 – 5 year period.

2. The number of referrals accepted.

We are unable to provide a response to this question.

Currently we have generic options within our patient administration system for the referral closure reason data item, this is impacting the accuracy of reporting referral accepted and rejected information. We have requested that options within our patient administration system to be aligned to the NHS data dictionary referral closure reason and referral rejection reason data items, once implemented we will be able to respond to questions of this nature in the future.

3. The number of referrals declined.
4. Of the referrals declined:
 - a) The number declined due to insufficient evidence.
 - b) The number where insufficient evidence from schools was cited (if recorded).
5. The average number of re-referrals per child following an initial rejection.
6. The number of children whose referrals were initially declined but were later:
 - a) Accepted upon re-referral.
 - b) Subsequently diagnosed with ASD or ADHD.

For questions 3-6, Please refer to our response in Q2.

7. Any internal guidance, policies, or criteria used when deciding whether to accept or reject referrals, particularly in relation to:
 - The role of school input or evidence.
 - Minimum evidence thresholds required.

The Trust follows NICE Guidelines and National Standards.

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