

Our Ref: NG/RM/26106
Date: 1st May 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 9th April 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:

Based on the engagement we've conducted, there are two themes I'm keen to explore in the report

- What is driving the demand for referrals to be assessed for ADHD and/or Autism. My suspicion is that schools are making support conditional on a diagnosis (and I have some data from the City Council re: EHCPs and the waiting list for them).
- And what proportion of our young people are neurodiverse - is the 'average' shifting - if it is, it would suggest we need more universal adaptations in schools to normalise the differences. The physical health analogy would be ramps and lifts in buildings to ensure equal access for people who can't use stairs.
- Parents have told us they are submitting repeated referrals for their children.

So, I'm interested in

- Referrals patterns over time (since a year or two before COVID) - to show rising demand
- The number of unique referrals by age group used by the census, so that I can work out the proportion of the population being referred
- The number of repeat referrals for the same child (to suggest that if we stop multiple referrals, it would reduce the overall burden on the service meaning it could reduce the waiting times).

I'm keen that our report demonstrates opportunities to improve the experience of our children and young people with suspected ADHD and/ or Autism and this is the spirit in which the report will be written.

- **ASD**
Please see Appendix 1 attached.

- **ADHD**

Please note that prior to the Trust having a specific CAMHS ADHD service created, CAMHS ADHD referrals were subsumed within the Trust's 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 in relation to ADHD referrals trends.

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.

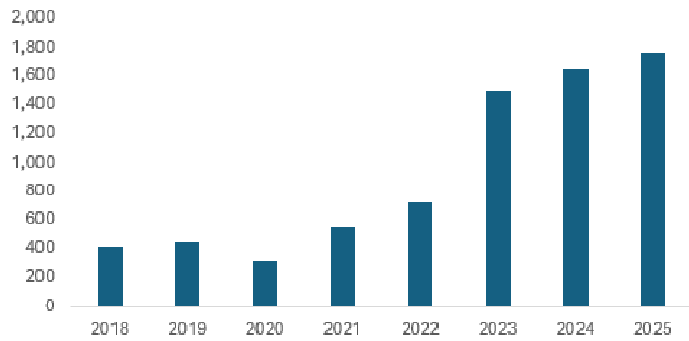
Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance

Number of Unique Children Referred in Calendar Year									
Autism	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total by Age Bracket
Up to 2 yrs	12	11	14	35	40	48	67	54	281
3 - 4 yrs	80	92	70	137	152	292	297	282	1402
5 - 7 yrs	116	104	73	120	145	340	375	392	1665
8 - 9 yrs	56	68	49	61	104	194	235	237	1004
10 - 14 yrs	115	142	80	140	199	451	502	593	2222
15 yrs	19	16	11	22	33	76	59	93	329
16 - 17 yrs	18	15	17	30	52	88	104	109	433
Annual Total	416	448	314	545	725	1489	1639	1760	

Autism Referrals by Calendar Year



Number of Children with Repeat Referrals by Calendar Year									
Autism	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total by Age Bracket
Up to 2 yrs	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	11	16
3 - 4 yrs	3	1	1	0	5	10	39	60	119
5 - 7 yrs	8	9	5	8	28	30	56	115	259
8 - 9 yrs	6	7	11	12	18	24	38	66	182
10 - 14 yrs	10	14	13	27	37	61	86	216	464
15 yrs	2	1	2	5	7	10	16	30	73
16 - 17 yrs	5	4	7	8	6	17	24	43	114
Annual Total	34	36	39	61	102	153	261	541	