

Our Ref: NG/RM/26133
Date: 8th June 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 8th May 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:

NeSS is a neurodevelopmental service for adults in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. We are currently reviewing our service model and service offer, and would be grateful if you could share the following information with respect to your service:

1. Please describe your service and what you offer (e.g. autism diagnostic service; neurodevelopmental support service).
 - **All age Autism diagnostic assessments and post diagnostic support programme (12 sessions).**
 - **Adult and CYP ADHD – diagnostic and treatment service.**
2. Please describe your triage process (e.g. separate referrals management team, paper screening of referrals by core team, initial screening assessments offered to clients).
Teams screens their own referrals.
3. How many people are currently awaiting diagnostic assessment (as of April 2026)?
 - **All Age ASD – 3,423 open referrals at 30/04/26 with no assessment start date.**
 - **Adult ADHD – 3,620 open referrals at 30/04/26 with no assessment start date.**
 - **CAMHS ADHD – 786 open referrals at 30/04/26 with no first appointment date.**
4. What is the maximum waiting time for diagnostic assessment?
 - **All Age ASD – 1,521 days to 30/04/26.**
 - **Adult ADHD – 938 days to 30/04/26.**
 - **CAMHS ADHD – Please note that prior that we are unable to provide a response to CAMHS ADHD maximum waiting time for diagnostic**

assessment. 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 CAMHS ADHD waiting time for diagnosis assessment

5. What percentage of referral were declined between April 2023-April 2026 and for what reason (common themes)?

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 rejected information.

Common themes are not recorded; we only record that they don't meet criteria.

From an Autism Assessment and ADHD service perspective, all referrals are accepted then screened and triaged to determine their appropriateness for continuing to assessment. Those that do not meet these criteria are discharged or signposted to other services.

6. How many complaints were received between April 2023-April 2026 (please describe common themes)? **209, 10 most common themes are:**

- **Communication Error.**
- **Unhappy with Assessment Outcome.**
- **Diagnosis Problems.**
- **Appointment Delay.**
- **Attitude of Staff- Nursing.**
- **Disagree with Discharge Decision.**
- **Attitude of Staff- Medical.**
- **Lack of Communications.**
- **Lack of Support.**
- **Co-Ordinated Care.**

7. What framework do you use for diagnostic assessment? (e.g. following NICE and/or AQAS guidelines). **Both NICE and AQAS**

8. Do you offer pre and/or post diagnostic interventions (if so which)? **Only post diagnostic currently, list below**

- **Post diagnostic support programme (Autism All Age) – 12 sessions mainly psycho education.**
- **Riding the Rapids – Autism (CYP)**
- **Medication – ADHD (CYP/Adults)**
- **New Forest parenting - ADHD**
- **Post diagnostic Group – ADHD (Adults)**
- **1:1 OT support – ADHD/Autism (Adults)**

9. If ADHD medication treatments (initiation and titration) are offered, what local arrangements do you have in place for shared care? **Shared Care with GPs**

10. What is your staffing model? (MDT members, admin)

– **ADHD**

- **Psychiatrist**
- **Non-Medical Prescriber (NMP)**
- **Occupational Therapist (OT)**
- **Healthcare Support Workers (HCSW)**
- **Admin**

– **ASD**

- **Psychiatrist**
- **Nurses**
- **Occupational Therapist (OT)**
- **Psychologist**
- **Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)**
- **Social Worker**

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