

Email: foi.tsdfd@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10764

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

We are making a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information on ADHD assessment referrals for under 18s through the NHS Right to Choose (RTC) pathway within the last two years (whether these are calendar years, financial years or another metric, please indicate this). We are not requesting any personal information.

We are requesting this information because we are looking at barriers to the NHS RTC pathway for under 18s seeking ADHD assessments. We hope this research will ultimately be used to inform understanding and policies around access to ADHD assessments for this age group.

Please can you provide:

1. Total number of referrals (for ADHD assessments in under 18s)

a. Of these how many through RTC

The Trust received zero Right to Choose (RTC) referrals for under-18 ADHD assessments during the last two years. ADHD-specific referral information is not held in a readily reportable format. Any referral data held by the Trust relates to the generic community paediatrics referral pool and is not broken down by condition or RTC pathway. To identify ADHD-specific referrals, the Trust would need to manually review individual patient records and extract the relevant information. We estimate that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed 18 hours, which is the appropriate limit for NHS bodies under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This element of the request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. Number of referrals which were accepted

a. Of these how many through RTC

The Trust received zero Right to Choose (RTC) referrals for under-18 ADHD assessments during the last two years.

ADHD-specific accepted referral information is not held in a readily reportable format. Any accepted referral data held by the Trust relates to the generic community paediatrics referral pool and is not broken down by condition or RTC pathway. To identify accepted ADHD assessment referrals, the Trust would need to manually review individual patient records to determine whether each accepted referral related to ADHD, identify the relevant referral pathway, and then extract and collate this information. We estimate that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed 18 hours, which is the appropriate limit for NHS bodies under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This element of the request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

3. Number of referrals which were rejected

a. Of these how many through RTC

The Trust received zero Right to Choose (RTC) referrals for under-18 ADHD assessments during the last two years.

ADHD-specific rejected referral information is not held in a readily reportable format. Any rejected referral data held by the Trust relates to the generic community paediatrics referral pool and is not broken down by condition or RTC pathway. To identify rejected ADHD assessment referrals, the Trust would need to manually review individual patient records to determine whether each rejected referral related to ADHD, identify the relevant referral pathway, establish whether the referral was accepted or rejected, and then extract and collate this information. We estimate that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed 18 hours, which is the appropriate limit for NHS bodies under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This element of the request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. Total number of ADHD assessments completed

a. Of these how many through RTC

b. Outcomes - whether ADHD diagnosis given/ diagnosis not given

The Trust received zero Right to Choose (RTC) referrals for under-18 ADHD assessments during the last two years. The Trust does not hold RTC-specific ADHD assessment outcome data for this period.

ADHD-specific completed assessment and outcome information, including whether an ADHD diagnosis was given or not given, is not held in a readily reportable format. Any assessment data held by the Trust relates to the generic community paediatrics

referral pool and is not broken down by condition or RTC pathway. To identify completed ADHD assessments and outcomes, the Trust would need to manually review individual patient records to determine whether each assessment related to ADHD, identify the relevant assessment pathway, establish the outcome recorded for each case, and then extract and collate this information. We estimate that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed 18 hours, which is the appropriate limit for NHS bodies under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This element of the request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

5. Waiting times for ADHD assessments

a. Of these, which through RTC

b. We wish to calculate median and mean waiting times from this data

The Trust received zero Right to Choose (RTC) referrals for under-18 ADHD assessments during the last two years and does not hold RTC-specific ADHD waiting time data for this period. Any waiting time information held by the Trust relates to the generic community paediatrics referral pool and is not broken down by condition or RTC pathway.

ADHD-specific waiting time information is not held in a readily reportable format. To identify ADHD-specific waiting times, the Trust would need to manually review individual patient records to determine whether each referral related to ADHD, establish the relevant assessment pathway, identify the applicable waiting time, and then extract and collate this information in order to calculate mean and median figures. We estimate that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed 18 hours, which is the appropriate limit for NHS bodies under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This element of the request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6. Copies of any internal guidance, policy documents, commissioning notes, service specifications or briefings related to the RTC

No separate internal guidance, policy documents, commissioning notes, service specifications or briefings relating specifically to the NHS Right to Choose pathway for ADHD assessments in under 18s have been identified.

7. Copies of any letters, emails, reviews, audits, evaluations that discuss whether RTC is meeting demand, improving access or contributing to delays in ADHD assessment

To identify whether any letters, emails, reviews, audits or evaluations contain discussions about whether RTC is meeting demand, improving access or contributing to delays in ADHD assessment, the Trust would need to undertake manual searches across relevant records and correspondence, review the contents to determine relevance, and extract any information in scope. We estimate that the time required to locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed 18 hours, which is the appropriate limit for NHS bodies under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This element of the request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note that Children and Family Health Devon transferred to Devon Partnership NHS Trust in April 2026. Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust does not hold information created or maintained by that service after the date of transfer. Requests relating to Children and Family Health Devon after April 2026 should be directed to Devon Partnership NHS Trust.

dpt.ig@nhs.net

Information Governance Team
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The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted



Torbay and South Devon

NHS Foundation Trust

at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team