

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/374
ASD referrals in Wales

Information Requested:

Could you please provide the current waiting time, referral to assessment, for a person awaiting an ASD assessment in Wales.

Some additional details that would also be useful:

1. A gender breakdown
2. Differences across health boards
3. The average waiting time at the end of each of the last 10 years.
4. The demography of those that have been referred (i.e., gender/age) for each of the last 10 years.

Response Details:

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that to retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees' regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you:

The current longest wait is an individual at 139 weeks, they are scheduled to be seen in September which is 5 weeks away, that makes it 144 weeks. In total 2042 children and young people are on the neurodevelopmental service waiting list.

Age breakdown of individuals referred to the neurodevelopmental service and currently awaiting an assessment appointment:

Age at referral	No of Patients
1	98
2	245
3	166
4	148
5	140

6	132
7	136
8	129
9	129
10	136
11	86
12	122
13	112
14	116
15	85
16	43
17	19
Grand Total	2042

Our activity data is generally focused on number/percentage achieving a particular target length of time to be seen. For instance, referral to assessment or assessment to treatment. In addition to this, the longest durations individuals are waiting on particular waiting lists.

The data isn't routinely split male/female and the Health Board would need to be mindful of respecting LGBTQ+ individuals.

Significant effort is being put into improving waiting times, including the recruitment of new roles in response to additional funding being provided. Both the Children and Women Clinical Board and the Regional Partnership Board are closely monitoring progress.