

Reference:	FOI.8686.22
Subject:	Autism diagnoses for children
Date of Request:	11 April 2022

Requested:

My enquiries relate to children's (under 18s) Autism diagnoses.

1. How many diagnoses of Autism were given to children (under 18 years of age) in 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018?
2. What is the current waiting time, from referral to assessment, for a child awaiting an Autism assessment? Please sort this data into male and female wait times.
3. How many children (under 18 years of age) are currently waiting for an assessment by your children's neurodevelopmental (ND) services?
 - a. Of those children waiting, how many are waiting for an Autism assessment by your health board?
4. What percentage of children were seen within the waiting time target of 26 weeks from referral to assessment? Please provide data for 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018.
5. At what age do you begin assessing children for Autism?

Please provide the information in an excel document.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the information within the attached spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.

The UHB is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for questions 1 and 2, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) patient records to identify the number of patients diagnosed with autism for question 1. A manual search of those patient records would then be required to provide a breakdown by gender for question 2, for the calendar years requested, as the information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds within Attachment 1.