

Date: Monday, 09th January 2023
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5508

Sid Watkins Building
Lower Lane
Fazakerley
Liverpool L9 7BB
Tel: 01515253611
Fax: 01515295500
Direct Line: 01515563038

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5508

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 29th December 2022.

Your request was as follows:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to request information relating to the provision of ASD (Autism spectrum disorder) services by The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.

Please provide the following information to the email address specified below.

1. Please name the organisation(s) that deliver(s) CYP (children and young people) ASD assessment / diagnoses in your Trust area
 - a. When did the contract(s) begin and when is the contract(s) due to end
 - b. What is the annual spend for this service for 2022, and for the last 5 years?
 - c. How is the service contracted - is it Block, Activity-based, or AQP contracting?
 - d. If the service is commissioned with other CCGs, ICSs or Trusts, which are these?
 - e. At what prevalence (% of the child population) have the contracts been commissioned against?
2. Does the same organisation as for Question 1 also deliver CYP ASD prescriptions and post-diagnosis ASD support in your Trust area? If not, please provide the same information for this organisation.
3. Please outline the CYP ASD pathway in your area, including key referral sources
4. How many children and young people are currently waiting for a CYP ASD assessment in your area? What is the longest and median wait time from a referral?
 - a. Within the last year, how many children and young people were assessed within 12 weeks of referral?
 - b. Within the last year, how many children and young people were discharged without assessment?
 - c. Please answer Questions 4, 4a, 4b for as many historic years as possible, up to 5 years
5. For the last 5 years, please give the number of CYP patients per year in the Trust who were:
 - a. Referred for ASD assessment
 - b. Given an ASD assessment
 - c. Given an ASD assessment from a 'Right to Choose' provider, outside the service contracted
 - d. Diagnosed with ASD

6. For the last 5 years, what was the average number of ASD-qualified staff delivering services in the area? How does this split by role:
 - a. Qualified psychiatrists
 - b. Paediatricians
 - c. Speech and Language therapists
 - d. Clinical Psychologists
 - e. For a-d, please also give numbers of trainees
7. Please provide equivalent answers for Questions 1-6, but for Adult ASD services in the Trust. If the Trust does not distinguish between CYP and Adult ASD services, please answer Questions 1-6 for all patients collectively.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold the information you have requested, as we do not hold clinics to treat specifically for Autism; therefore we cannot provide this information.

Under the FOIA we are not required to create this information in order to answer your request. I should explain that the FOIA is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities. The FOIA does not require public authorities to generate information, or to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. 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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5508 in any future communications.

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 Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information