



5 March 2020

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
 99 Waverley Road  
 St Albans  
 Hertfordshire  
 AL3 5TL  
 Tel: 01727 804954  
 Email: [Hpkt.foi@nhs.net](mailto:Hpkt.foi@nhs.net)

Our Ref: FOI 3582

Thank you for your request concerning the number of services users with a suspected and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

**For each annual quarter starting January 2017 (or the earliest that you hold the relevant data for), I would like to know the following:**

- 1) The number of people, broken down by age category, who were referred to your services with suspected autism spectrum disorder (ASD).**

It is not possible to provide this information broken down by age due to time constraints. Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. For example to establish the ages of the 574 referrals this would involve looking at each record e.g. 47.83 hours (574 x 5 minutes) @ £25ph = £1,195.75<sup>1</sup>.

I can confirm that the figures provided below all refer to adults.

<b>Learning Disability Service – West and Mid Essex</b>		
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Number of Referrals for Assessment</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>4</b>	25
<b>2018/19</b>	<b>1</b>	42
	<b>2</b>	41
	<b>3</b>	43
	<b>4</b>	34
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>1</b>	45
	<b>2</b>	48
	<b>3</b>	47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>325</b>

<sup>1</sup> Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

<b>IAPT - North East Essex</b>		
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Number of Referrals for Assessment</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>4</b>	20
<b>2018/19</b>	<b>1</b>	26
	<b>2</b>	36
	<b>3</b>	36
	<b>4</b>	35
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>1</b>	36
	<b>2</b>	26
	<b>3</b>	34
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>249</b>

**CAVEAT:** Due to the time delay between referral and assessment, the people referred in any one quarter are likely to be assessed and receive a diagnosis in a later quarter, thus there is no relationship between the number of referrals in a quarter and the number diagnosed in that same quarter.

<b>Hertfordshire</b>
In Hertfordshire referrals are not made for an assessment and diagnosis. We provide services for people with ASD but it is not possible to this extract the number of referrals as we record this information within our Electronic Patient Recording (EPR) as a clinical record. In order for us to provide you with the numbers for Hertfordshire would involve a manual search of every referral on our EPR and again this will invoke S12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

- 2) The number of people, broken down by age category, who were then diagnosed with suspected autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

<b>Learning Disability Service - West and Mid Essex</b>		
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Number with ASD diagnoses</b>
2017/18	4	15
2018/19	1	23
	2	22
	3	18
	4	Not available yet
2019/20	1	Not available yet
	2	Not available yet
	3	Not available yet

<b>IAPT - North East Essex</b>		
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Number of Referrals for Assessment</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	<b>4</b>	18
<b>2018/19</b>	<b>1</b>	20
	<b>2</b>	20
	<b>3</b>	24
	<b>4</b>	36
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>1</b>	30
	<b>2</b>	20
	<b>3</b>	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>249</b>

**CAVEAT:** A number of people who are referred, decide not to pursue their assessment with the service or need referral elsewhere, meaning that not all of those referred will go on to be assessed.

Please see the explanation above regarding age categories.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith**  
**Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

