

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_156_22

You asked:

I am writing to request information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000). 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?

Please see provided in the table below the number of children/young people that had a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder concluded, for the years requested:

Year	Number
2018	113
2019	133
2020	127
2021	131

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.

At present, there is around a 24 month wait for an assessment within the Neurodevelopmental Service. The waiting time does not differ based on gender. The waiting time is for children/young people awaiting an assessment for Autism and/or ADHD as there is one routine waiting list.

3. How many children (under 18 years of age) are currently waiting for an assessment by your children's neurodevelopmental (ND) services?

There are currently 1271 children/young people on the waiting list for an assessment.

a) Of those children waiting, how many are waiting for an Autism assessment by your health board?

Of the 1271 children/young people waiting, 656 are awaiting an Autism Spectrum Disorder assessment and 358 are awaiting an Autism/ADHD assessment.

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.

Please see provided in the table below the percentage of patients seen within the 26-week target, for the years requested:

Year	Seen within the 26 week target
2018	13%
2019	12%

2020	11%
2021	11%

5. At what age do you begin assessing children for Autism?

The service accepts referrals for children aged 20+ months, providing there is supporting information included within the referral to warrant an assessment within the Neurodevelopmental Service. There has to be evidence of difficulties across different settings highlighted for a child/young person to be put on the waiting list. The referral is triaged and decided if it is appropriate for the Neurodevelopmental Service, or whether it should be forwarded to Community Paediatrics for consideration, or signposted to third sector agencies in the first instance.