



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_402_25

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request detailed information regarding waiting times for an autism diagnosis within your Health Board.

As an individual with a formal diagnosis of autism and a lead campaigner for resurrecting Wales Autism Bill 2019, I am gathering data to support my Change.org campaign. My recent written evidence to the House of Lords Autism Select Committee highlighted that waiting times are a significant barrier to accessing vital support. The information I am requesting is crucial for understanding the current situation and advocating for legislative change to improve services across Wales.

In my evidence to the House of Lords, I noted that waiting times for a formal diagnosis in the Cardiff & Vale area are approximately 26 months, with waits in rural areas of Wales reaching up to 46 months. Furthermore, a public statement from Paul Davies MS has indicated a seven-year waiting list for residents in his Preseli constituency, an area served by Hywel Dda University Health Board.

Please provide the following information, broken down by financial year (e.g., 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25) and separated for adults and children/young people:

Please see our response for Adults provided below:

1. The average waiting time from initial referral to the first diagnostic assessment for autism.

Financial Year	Average
2022/23	67 weeks*
2023/24	53 weeks*
2024/25	116 weeks

2. The longest waiting time from initial referral to the first diagnostic assessment for autism.

Financial Year	Longest Wait
2022/23	112 weeks*
2023/24	140 weeks*
2024/25	169 weeks

3. The total number of individuals currently on the waiting list for an autism diagnosis.

The number of Adults on the waiting list for an autism diagnosis for the following financial years is as follows: -

Financial Year	Waiting list as at Financial Year End
2022/23	268*
2023/24	704*
2024/25	1324
@ July 2025	1361

*Please note that Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) was established on 1 April 2019, and Adult Autism Services were transferred to CTMUHB on 1 April 2024.

As such, the information requested prior to 1 April 2024 pertains only to the former Cwm Taf area and does not reflect the boundary change that incorporated the Bridgend locality.

For any information relating to the former Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMUHB) area, specifically Bridgend, prior to 1 April 2024, we kindly advise redirecting your request to:

FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk (Swansea Bay University Health Board).

4. The number of new referrals for an autism diagnosis received each year.

The number of new referrals received for an Adult autism diagnosis by Financial Year for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board: -

Financial Year	Number of New Referrals
2022/23	733**
2023/24	884**
2024/25	724

**Figures for 2022/23 and 2023/24 include referrals from the Bridgend area for assessment and support. These referrals were honoured following the transfer of services to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board on 1st April 2024.

Please see our response for Children and Young People provided in the table below:

Questions		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
1	Average waiting time from referral being received to 1 st appointment	96 weeks	45 weeks	73 weeks
2	Longest waiting time from referral being received to 1 st appointment	103 weeks	103 weeks	100 weeks

3	Total no. of individuals on waiting list for an autism assessment	1856 (on 31/03/2023)	2117 (on 31/03/2024)	2186 (on 31/03/2025)
4	No. of new referrals received for an autism assessment	1688	2181	1560