

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.194.26

2 June 2026

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 8 May 2026, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partly holds the information that you require. For ease of reference your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows each question individually.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information: Adult neurodevelopmental services

Q1. Please describe your service and what you offer (e.g. autism diagnostic service; neurodevelopmental support service) - **Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) offers an adult autism diagnostic and support service and an Adult Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Diagnostic and treatment service.**

Q2. Please describe your triage process (e.g. separate referrals management team, paper screening of referrals by core team, initial screening assessments offered to clients). **Autism: For all referrals into the service individuals, family members or professionals can refer the individual seeking input from our service.**

For an assessment of autism, we have a referral form and we request the completion of the three questionnaires: Adult Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ), Cambridge Behaviour Scale (EQ) and the Relatives Questionnaire (RQ). This is then processed and discussed at our Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting, where the appropriateness of the referral will be discussed and either accepted or rejected. Complex referrals will be screened by our Clinical Lead to determine

appropriateness and will either be accepted onto our waiting list or rejected.

Autism support referrals require completion of our form and proof of diagnosis will need to be included, in order for discussion at MDT. The referral is then either accepted for an initial screening appointment, where more in-depth information is gathered about the support request. This is then discussed at MDT and the options of: no 1:1 support with signposting; our group invite lists or 1:1 support waiting list are considered. A letter is then sent to inform the client of the MDT decision.

ADHD: There is a service specific referral that is required along with medical history. Referrals can only be accepted from GPs or other professionals involved with the client who are able to obtain medical history.

Q3. How many people are currently awaiting diagnostic assessment (as of April 2026)?

Autism: 574.

ADHD: 945 awaiting diagnostic assessment, with 355 referrals awaiting to be triaged.

Q4. What is the maximum waiting time for diagnostic assessment? –

We are unable to quantify the maximum waiting time; however the current longest waiting times are as follows:

Autism diagnostic assessment: 3 years 6 months

ADHD diagnostic assessment: 3 years 3 months

Q5. What percentage of referral were declined between April 2023-April 2026 and for what reason (common themes)? - **For both Autism and ADHD, figures for this have not been collected and therefore we are therefore unable to provide. Referrals are declined due to some of the following reasons: referral questionnaire scores not indicating autism, accompanying information not showing signs of autism, clinical judgement of referral information appearing more appropriate for another service e.g ADHD, psychology.**

Q6. How many complaints were received between April 2023-April 2026 (please describe common themes)? - **Please see the table below for all concerns for adult neurodevelopmental services which will include enquires, early resolutions and formal complaints:**

Requested period	Number of concerns
April 2023 - April 2026	38

Common themes include:

- **Access (to services)**
- **Appointments**
- **Clinical Treatments/ Assessments**
- **Communication Issues (Including Language)**

- **Medication**
- **Referral**

Q7. What framework do you use for diagnostic assessment? (e.g. following NICE and/ or AQAS guidelines).

Autism: We follow NICE Guidelines and use the DSM5 criteria to support clinical formulation and diagnostic outcome. The diagnostic assessment tools used are: The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADiR) and Royal College of Psychiatry measure.

ADHD: NICE Guidelines and DSM 5 and DIVA 5 criteria are used to support clinical assessment and outcomes.

Q8. Do you offer pre and/or post diagnostic interventions (if so which)?

Austism: We offer advice hub sessions, which can be booked through contacting the service. They are a 30-minute session with a member of staff where advice and support are given e.g. signposting to other services, completion of referral forms will be carried out.

After the outcome of an autism assessment is provided there is a full written report given, which includes recommendations. There will also be the option given of a further session to discuss the outcome and report.

ADHD: The advice hubs established within the autism pathway are being offered for these clients, where possible. However, the support and advice is currently more limited due to staff experience of ADHD and the relevant support services and tools.

Q9. If ADHD medication treatments (initiation and titration) are offered, what local arrangements do you have in place for shared care? - **All GPs except for three within Powys have shared care agreements established. The ADHD pathway then conducts 12 monthly reviews of these clients, in order to continue shared care agreements in place.**

Q10. What is your staffing model? (mdt members, admin)

Autism:

- **Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Lead x1 – vacant post**
- **Service Manager (Registered teacher) x1**
- **Occupational Therapist x1**
- **Specialist Practitioners x2 (Mental Health Nurse, teacher)**
- **Assistant Psychologist x1**
- **Assistant Practitioners x2**
- **Business Manager x1**
- **Administrator x1**

ADHD:

- **Consultant Nurse x1**
- **Advanced Nurse Prescriber (ANP) x1**

- **Clinical Nurse Specialist x1 (in process of being appointed)**
- **Service Manager x1**
- **Business Manager x1**
- **Administrator**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Should you wish an internal review, please quote the reference number and send your correspondence to the above address.

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:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH.

Telephone: 0330 414 6421

Complaints Portal: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Web site: <https://ico.org.uk/>

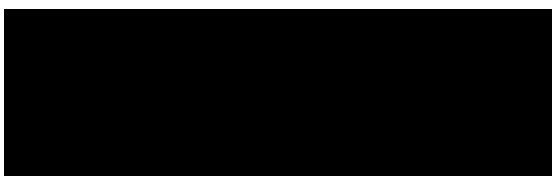
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Further information including a sample license terms and fees can be found at [Open Government Licence](#).

Yours sincerely



Elaine Lorton

Executive Director of Primary Community Care and Mental Health

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.