

29 February 2024

Dear

ATISN 20159 – Autism Statistics

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 02 February 2024. You have requested the following:

1. The current **waitlist size** (number of referrals in the waitlist) for suspected autism referrals in Wales for the 7 health boards?
2. The current **median waiting time in days** (from referral to first seen) for suspected autism referrals in Wales for the 7 health boards?
3. The current **median days to diagnosis** (from referral to diagnosis given) for suspected autism referrals in Wales for the 7 health boards?

Our Response

I can confirm that Welsh Government does hold the current waitlist size information you have requested, and this can be found in attached spreadsheet. However, it should be noted that waiting times data collected relates to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) combined.

Due to the aggregate nature of the waiting times collected i.e. the numbers waiting are grouped within large time bands spanning a number of weeks, we are unable to provide accurate median waiting times, in days, for referral to first seen.

The data shown is deemed management information only. This is because the information is currently not of a suitable quality to publish due to, for example, inconsistencies in how health boards are interpreting and applying the definitions that support the data collection.

We do not capture waiting times from referral to diagnosis given so are unable to provide median days to diagnosis.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,

Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,