

FOI REF: 26/358

8th July 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

I am investigating NHS-commissioned Neurodiversity Services (ADHD and ASD) across the UK. "Neurodiversity Services" here includes assessment, medication initiation / titration and post-diagnostic support to individuals in the community. In England, this includes provision delivered via Right to Choose / Any Qualified Provider arrangements, where applicable.

Please note that the Trust is not commissioned to provide ADHD assessments for both children and adults or Autism assessments for adults.

This service is provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Their Freedom of Information email address is:

foi@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

Therefore, the information provided below is for Paediatric Autism only.

1. Please provide your total annual spend (for each of the last three financial years, FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/FY26) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by:

a. Total annual spend by third party private provider*

The combined spend on Paediatric Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments carried out by ID Medical Group Limited and Psicon Limited was:

2023/24	£1,076,623
2024/25	£928,000
2025/26	£877,863

b. For each third party private provider, total annual spend by assessment type (ADHD / Autism)

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the split between each provider. To enable the Trust to provide this information it would require a manual review and analysis of 3 years of invoices which we estimate would take in excess of 18 hours. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

2. Please provide your total number of patients (for each of the last three financial years, FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/FY26) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by:

a. Total number of patients assessed by third party private provider*

b. For each third party private provider, total number of patients assessed by assessment type (ADHD / Autism)

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested in respect of Paediatric Autism, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that sharing commercials along with the volumes could disadvantage the incumbent supplier against their competitors. The information could provide competitors with the suppliers pricing, which could result in these suppliers obtaining a competitive advantage which could result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

3. For each third-party private provider, please indicate the contract type (block / activity-based), start date and end date

Activity based, start date – 27th October 2025 to 26th October 2028.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an

internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm