

Our Ref: FOI 871

09 July 2012

Sarah McCulloch
By email:

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Dear Ms McCulloch

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request dated 22 June 2012, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under section 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that NHS Somerset holds the requested information for Questions 4 - 6, and (b), is supplying it, as below. NHS Somerset, as a service commissioner, does not hold information for Questions 1 - 3.

Question 1 - How many adults do you have with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (any, although if there are separate statistics for Asperger's, HFA, LFA, they would be appreciated) in your area

Question 2 - How many children

Question 3 - What diagnostic services are available to a) adults and b) children

NHS Somerset commissions one specialist service through Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust which comprises of the Aspergers Team who provide diagnosis and health/social care for adults with autism. As such you may wish to contact [Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#) to request this information.

The acute trusts for which NHS Somerset is the lead commissioner, through paediatric care, would provide some services for children with Autism. As such, you may wish to contact [Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust](#) and [Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#) to request this information.

Question 4 - What agencies or teams you have that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategise, etc

Question 5 - An email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible

In addition to the NHS Health Services listed above, Somerset County Council may hold some information around the care packages that are in place for people with autism. As such, you may wish to contact [Somerset County Council](#) to request this information.

Question 6 - What the typical process should be for an adult in your area first asking their GP for an assessment for autistic spectrum disorder to receiving a diagnosis/support

Once a referral from a GP has been made, this would lead to an initial assessment through the Community Mental Health team with Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. As such, you may wish to contact [Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#) to request information regarding the post-referral assessment process.

Appeal

If you have any further queries, require any clarification, or have any concerns regarding the way in which your request has been handled and/or to request an internal review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you remain dissatisfied, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner under section 50 of the Act.

The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Mark Appleby
Director of Human Resources / Acting Director of Corporate Services and Communications