

## Information Governance

Dept of eHealth  
NHS Grampian  
Rosehill House  
Foresterhill Site  
Cornhill Road  
Aberdeen  
AB25 2ZG



BY EMAIL  
Sarah McCulloch

Date 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012  
Your Ref  
Our Ref FOI/2012/226  
Enquiries to Information Governance Team  
Extension 51549  
Direct Line 01224 551549  
Email [nhsq.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nhsq.foi@nhs.net)

Dear Ms McCulloch

### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

I refer to your e-mail dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012, requesting:

- “1. How many adults 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;  
2. How many children;  
3. What diagnostic services are available to a) adults and b) children;  
4. What agencies or teams you have that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategise, etc.  
5. An email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible.  
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.”*

I can now respond as follows:

#### **1. How many adults with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (any, although if there are separate statistics for Asperger's, HFA, LFA, they would be appreciated).**

NHS Grampian does not hold an exact figure for the number of adults with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder; s17 of the Act refers – Information not held.

Open Referrals with a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's Syndrome or Autistic Spectrum Disorders as at 14/05/2012 are in the table below. Please note that not all referrals are available on the recording system, to ascertain specific numbers would require a hand trawl of all individual patient records which would cost in excess of the limit set out under s12 of the Act – Excessive cost of compliance.

Age at Referral	ASPERGER'S SYNDROME	ATYPICAL AUTISM	CHILDHOOD AUTISM	PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER, UNSPECIFIED
18 and Over	32	10	63	<5

#### **2. How many children.**

There are 789 children and young people, up to 19 years of age, with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, known to Community Child Health Services in Grampian.

Open Referrals with a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's Syndrome or Autistic Spectrum Disorders as at 14/05/2012 are in the table below. Please note that not all referrals are available on the recording system, to ascertain specific numbers would require a hand trawl of all individual patient records which would cost in excess of the limit set out under s12 of the Act – Excessive cost of compliance.

Age at Referral	ASPERGER'S SYNDROME	ATYPICAL AUTISM	CHILDHOOD AUTISM	OTHER CHILDHOOD DISINTEGRATIVE DISORDER	PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER, UNSPECIFIED
Under 18s	9	3	60	<5	<5

### 3. What diagnostic services are available to a) adults and b) children.

a) Adult Mental Health services (for 18 to 65 yrs) are provided by multi-agency/disciplinary Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) that are aligned to GP practices. The CMHTs membership includes medical psychiatry, nursing, clinical psychology, occupational therapy, social work and mental health officers. All these professions are available to provide diagnostic services.

b) Diagnostic assessments in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are available from locality based Child Development Teams. They include multi-disciplinary and multi-agency assessments, including the use of Autism Specific assessment tools. Diagnostic services in Moray are similar and available from a local multi-agency team.

### 4. Agencies or teams that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategise, etc.

For children and young people, up to 19 years of age, the Community based Child Development Teams work in conjunction with Education, CAMHS, Social Work and the Third Sector to support children and their families. Following diagnosis we signpost to local and national services e.g National Autistic Society for ongoing support and information. In the department of child and family mental health we have the Cygnet programme which is specifically for the parents of newly diagnosed children, and the DIY group (our drop in group for parents is due to start which will include the parents of ASD children).

### 5. Email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible.

Child Development Teams are available by searching the local services and clinics listed on the NHS Grampian website:- [www.nhsgrampian.org](http://www.nhsgrampian.org) . S25 of the Act refers – Information otherwise accessible.

### 6. What the typical process should be for an adult first asking their GP for an assessment for autistic spectrum disorder to receiving a diagnosis/support.

The GP would seek advice from their aligned CMHT or make a referral for assessment. The patient will be seen for initial assessment by an appropriate member of the CMHT. Advice will then be provided to the patient/GP and, if required, ongoing care may be provided by the CMHT.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Grampian has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within 40 working days and should, in the first instance, be in writing to: Directorate of Corporate Communications, Ashgrove House, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZN or by email to [grampian@nhs.net](mailto:grampian@nhs.net)

Requests for appeal should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS  
Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611  
e-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CMorrice', written in a cursive style.

**Chris Morrice**  
**Information Governance Manager**  
**NHS Grampian**