

FOI 3028

24th April 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Adult Community Service

Community Definition: Outpatient Speech and Language Therapy services in community settings (not outpatient services delivered within an acute setting), domiciliary, community hospitals, care homes etc.

1. How many total referrals were received by the service in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020?

Response:

Please see attachment 1 and attachment 4.

2. Please detail the following for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.

a. How many adults were waiting for *initial contact re communication on 1st December? Please break this down by how many were waiting:

- I. Less than 4 weeks
- II. 5 to 8 weeks
- III. 9 - 12 weeks
- IV. 13 to 18 weeks
- V. 19 weeks to 26 weeks
- VI. 27 weeks to 52 weeks
- VII. 1 year to 2 years
- VIII. over two years

b. The longest waiting time for *initial contact for adult speech and language therapy re communication on 1st December.

c. The number of adults waiting for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December. Please break this down by how many were waiting:

- I. 2-10 days
- II. 10 days to 12 weeks
- III. 13 weeks to 18 weeks
- IV. 19 weeks to 26 weeks
- V. 27 weeks to 52 weeks
- VI. 1 year+

d. The longest waiting time for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December.

e. The number of adults waiting for an instrumental assessment on 1st December. Please break this down into FEES and VFS and by how many were waiting:

- I. 2-10 days
- II. 10 days to 12 weeks
- III. 13 weeks to 18 weeks
- IV. 19 weeks to 26 weeks
- V. 27 weeks to 52 weeks
- VI. 1 year+

Response:

Please see attachment 1.

*Please define 'initial contact' as contact where the patient received input from a Speech and Language Therapist that added value to their care / moved their care forward. (This could include assessment, advice, education, signposting, **but doesn't include administrative letters or calls.**) If you do not record 'initial contact' in this way, please provide your definition and the associated data.*

Adult Learning Disability Service (ALD)

ALD Definition: Speech and Language Therapy services designed to support Adults with a Learning Disability.

1. **How many total referrals were received by the service in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020**

Response:

Please see attachment 2.

2. **Please detail the following for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.**

- a. **How many adults were waiting for *initial contact re communication on 1st December? Please break this down by how many were waiting:**

- I. **Less than 4 weeks**
- II. **5 to 8 weeks**
- III. **9 - 12 weeks**
- IV. **13 to 18 weeks**
- V. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
- VI. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**
- VII. **1 year to 2 years**
- VIII. **over two years**

- b. **The longest waiting time for *initial contact for adult speech and language therapy re communication on 1st December.**

- c. **The number of adults waiting for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December. Please break this down by how many were waiting:**

- I. **Less than 48 hours**
- II. **2-10 days**
- III. **10 days to 12 weeks**
- IV. **13 weeks to 18 weeks**
- V. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**

- VI. 27 weeks to 52 weeks
- VII. 1 year+

- d. The longest waiting time for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December.
- e. The number of adults waiting for an instrumental assessment on 1st December. Please break this down into FEES and VFS and by how many were waiting:
 - I. Less than 48 hours
 - II. 2-10 days
 - III. 10 days to 12 weeks
 - IV. 13 weeks to 18 weeks
 - V. 19 weeks to 26 weeks
 - VI. 27 weeks to 52 weeks
 - VII. 1 year+

Response:

Please see attachment 2 and attachment 5.

*Please define 'initial contact' as contact where the patient received input from a Speech and Language Therapist that added value to their care / moved their care forward. (This could include assessment, advice, education, signposting, **but doesn't include administrative letters or calls.**) If you do not record 'initial contact' in this way, please provide your definition and the associated data.*

Adult Acute Service

Acute Definition: Inpatient services in the acute setting and outpatient services, where the service is delivered within the acute setting.

- 1. How many total referrals were received by the service in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020

Response:

Please see attachment 3.

- 2. Please detail the following for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.

- a. How many adults were waiting for *initial contact re communication on 1st December? Please break this down by how many were waiting:
 - I. 1-2 weeks
 - II. 3-4 weeks
 - III. 5-8 weeks
 - IV. Over 9 weeks
- b. The longest waiting time for *initial contact for adult speech and language therapy re communication on 1st December.
- c. The number of adults waiting for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December. Please break this down by how many were waiting:

- I. up to 48 hours
 - II. 3-4 days
 - III. 5-7 days
 - IV. 8-10 days
 - V. 11-14 days
 - VI. More than 15 days
- d. The longest waiting time for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December.
- e. The number of adults waiting for an instrumental assessment on 1st December. Please break this down into FEES and VFS and by how many were waiting:
- I. up to 48 hours
 - II. 3-4 days
 - III. 5-7 days
 - IV. 8-10 days
 - V. 11-14 days
 - VI. More than 15 days

Response:

Please see attachment 3.

*Please define 'initial contact' as contact where the patient received input from a Speech and Language Therapist that added value to their care / moved their care forward. (This could include assessment, advice, education, signposting, **but doesn't include administrative letters or calls.**) If you do not record 'initial contact' in this way, please provide your definition and the associated data.*

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net