

FOI 3668

30th March 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

As a freedom of information request, please provide the following information for each of 2024/25 and 2025/26 to date:

Question 1. The median time (in days) taken to assess a referral made to adult social services for an assessment of needs. Please include new referrals as well as re-assessment of existing clients.

Response: This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

Furthermore, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we can advise that it would require an extensive manual count of data within various systems, just to ascertain if information relevant to your request is held. As such, we advise that there is no way to refine this request to bring it within the appropriate limit.

Question 2. The single longest wait (in days) taken to assess an individual after a referral to adult social services. Please include new referrals as well as reassessments. This should include any support package, whether delivered directly by social services or commissioned by them in any other way.

Response: Please see response to Question 1.

Question 3. The median time (in days) taken between the completion of assessment and the start of a service identified within their care and support. Please include new referrals as well as re-assessment of existing clients.

Response: Please see response to Question 1.

Question 4. The single longest wait (in days) between the completion of assessment and the start of a service identified within their care and support. This should include any support package, whether delivered directly by social services or commissioned by them in any other way.

Response: Please see response to Question 1.

Question 5. The number of people who have died awaiting the start of an initial package of social care in 2025/26.

Response:

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST												
REF 10109 - 0326 FOI 3668 ASSESSMENT TIMESCALE (BRIAN BEATTIE)												
SOURCE: [OUTSTANDING LIST] - PERIOD: [COMPLETED WAITS BETWEEN 01/04/2024-28/02/2026]												
*NOTE - CARE BUREAU CHANGED SYSTEM ON 11TH NOV'25												
*NOTE - 2025-2026 ONLY INCLUDES DATA FROM 01/04/2025-28/02/2026												
	2025/26											
TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS REMOVED FROM UNMET NEED LIST (WITH REASON AS DECEASED)	225											
BELOW IS BREAKDOWN PER MONTH TO SUPPORT THE ABOVE FIGURES												
2025-2026*												
TYPE PACKAGE REQ	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Total
CLIENTS REMOVED - DECEASED	29	18	24	24	17	16	29	10	24	14	20	225

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

END