

FOI 2437

10th July 2024**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

“Thank you for your clarification question, I can confirm it is everything other than elective service i.e. we would like data on Physical Disability for children and adults to be provided, service users in the community requiring adaptations on their home.”

RESPONSE:

From a Northern Ireland point of view service users in the community requiring adaptations in their own home are part of our elective service within core community OT waiting lists across directorates. For paediatric services this information is readily available with the Child with Disability OT Team focusing on housing and equipment. The waiting lists for adult services would include referrals for service users seeking adaptation assessment and other OT assessment and intervention areas. The waiting list details provided below are in line with this. Separating the adult service referrals to provide the requested information would require manual trawls of referral information in excess of 18 hours therefore refined figures are not available. Please see below information available for position as at 30th April 2024:

- 1. Please confirm your Social Care OT waiting list status, including:**
 - a. The total number of cases**

Response:

TOTAL: 2371

- b. No of Adult service user cases**

Response:

Number: 2343

- c. No of Paediatric service user cases**

Response:

Number: 28

- d. A breakdown of service users waiting by:**
 - i. DFG,**
 - ii. Moving & Handling**
 - iii. Functional assessment**
 - iv. Other**

Response:

This information is not centrally held and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would require a manual trawl of referral information and would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.

e. The mean average wait in months for an OT assessment in the last 12 months (if not recorded: please state your current longest and shortest case wait in months)

Response:

Longest wait Adult Services: 22 months

Shortest wait Adult Services: 0 months

Longest wait Paediatric Services: 8 months

Shortest wait Paediatric Services: 0 months

2. What percentage of your OT assessment service, if any, has been outsourced in the last 12 months?

Response:

Within Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) we do not outsource Occupational Therapy Services.

3. Not being used

Response:

Is it unclear what the request for information may be for question 3 therefore unable to provide.

4. If the service is commission to an independent provider:

a. Can you advise what commissioning mechanism you use:

i. Through frameworks (If so, where is your framework published?)

ii. Direct relationships

iii. Preferred Supplier lists

iv. Other (please elaborate)

b. Who is your current independent provider(s) for OT Assessments:

i. Name of supplier(s)

ii. The number of cases outsourced, and a cost paid per assessment (on average if easier)

iii. The forecast total value spent during the contract term

iv. Contract start date

v. Contract end date

Response:

This is not applicable to SHSCT Occupational Therapy Services.

5. Who is your current community equipment provider for the OT assessment service?

- i. Name of supplier(s)
- ii. Total spend for 2023/24 financial year
- iii. When is the contract end date

Response:

Community equipment provision is mainly managed regionally via Business Services Organisation (BSO) based on a framework provision. The range of equipment suppliers would be available from BSO who are the main contract holders and they would be able to advise on associated contract dates.

For other non-stock items purchased by Community Equipment Stores, this information is not centrally held and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information.

The spend for 2023/2024 includes equipment from beds, moving and handling and daily aids provided via the framework and non-stock provision issued by a range of professionals including Occupational Therapy, Nursing and Physiotherapy. The total spend for equipment purchases in 2023/2024 is £2,326,166.96.

6. Who is the main contact responsible for the commissioning and delivery OT services at the Trust?

- i. Name
- ii. Job title
- iii. Email
- iv. Telephone Number

Response:

Julie Smyth Head of Occupational Therapy & Reablement, Adult Community Services.
Email: Julie.smyth@southerntrust.hscni.net Tel: 028 3756 6119.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net