

Reference: FOI.ICB-2223/263

Subject: Autism Diagnosis Delays & Covid

I can confirm that the ICB does not hold the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Please can you disclose the reasons for delays to people seeking an autism diagnosis, for example for those that have already been on the waiting list in Bristol and not yet diagnosed - the number that have been on the list for at least two years and the postponements to their assessment that have been made by the NHS and how many have been caused by what?	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB) does not hold this information. We advise you to contact the provider, Sirona care and health, directly: Sirona.hello@nhs.net
Please disclose in relation any staff that were involved in assessment that have been moved to cover work in other services, what areas they have been moved into, whether any have had to cover for colleagues who work or worked in hospitals and the reasons those colleagues have been absent including any numbers for any replaced by autism assessment staff that have moved to Covid patients, any that have been off sick with Covid, any that have passed away after catching Covid and any that have either been off sick extended due to long Covid or have had to leave the service due to long Covid and details of numbers of autism assessment before any of these moves and the number of staff there now.	See above

<p>Any correspondence from high level to staff, during the period of long waits for the assessment, relating to moves out of the autism service or staffing resources/redeployment etc. affecting autism service to cover setting up of Covid wards or other treatment or care for Covid patients and/to cover for staff off sick with Covid/long Covid/no longer with us after catching Covid/left due to long Covid.</p> <p>Any moves into GP surgeries that have been short of staff for same Covid reasons.</p>	See above
<p>Any autism assessment staff that have been off with Covid, or have died after catching it, any impacts from long Covid etc. that have left the service itself short and staff not moved into it, any correspondence from high related to such.</p> <p>And any about shortages of staff elsewhere in the NHS at Bristol (that is not in autism assessment) being off sick with Covid or having left long Covid reasons or no longer with us after catching Covid leaving no or not enough staff elsewhere to move into autism assessment.</p>	See above
<p>Numbers etc., anything that explains short staff from Covid (or any long Covid) elsewhere impacting on the autism assessment service or staff shortages in that service itself from such reasons or tells me any other reasons.- any reasons why autism assessment short so that people on the waiting list for extended time (two or more years) that are/aren't related to Covid, separately for long Covid, what the non-Covid reasons are, if possible with numbers of staff impacted etc. and with numbers of autism assessments that have been postponed that have now</p>	See above

waited two years or more and details of any repeat postponements and if possible when they were made. Whatever relevant information such as any of that described above you can provide within the costs limit.	
Also any breakdown if possible relating to delays to assessments for autism of those under 18 and those that are adults. Classed based on when they started waiting.	See above

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 3 April 2023 and has been approved for release by Jon Lund, Deputy Chief Finance Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.