



Request

Under the FOI Act, please provide the following information for each of 2024/25 and 2025/26 to date:

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

Response

The information that has been requested is not currently available in a reportable format. To collate the figures requested, we would need to develop a methodology to calculate the wait times. This would require a significant amount of officer time.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request if the time required to locate, retrieve and extract the information is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. For local authorities, this limit is 18 hours of staff time.

We have assessed the work that would be required and have concluded that fulfilling your request would exceed this limit. We are therefore unable to provide the information you have requested.

Time already spent on decoding the newly developed DHSC methodology to apply to our local figures is 14 hours, and this is approximately halfway through the process.

The Department of Health and Social Care are planning on publishing wait time figures in July 2026; however, the method is currently under review and subject to change.