



**Richard Woods** @Richard\_Autism

Aug 22, 2021 · 31 tweets · [Richard\\_Autism/status/1429359663594844166](#)



[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) I have found it. Well at least that is evidence PDA is undermining the integrity of autism understandings. Thank you for that...

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) Actually the inclusion of that feature is actually highly problematic for too many reasons. Presumably it included due to lobbying of [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) ?

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)." P33.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) Demand avoidant features in early infancy are generic, not specific to autism. PDA profiles often does not include developmental features. EDA-Q & Revised PDA DISCO questions do not assess for those features.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) O'Nions (2013) found Passive Early History does not cluster with other PDA traits.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) Considering the lack of evidence for what PDA is, how such demand-avoidant processes are seen in non-autistic persons, they are not indicative of autism at all; especially as anxiety is not an autism feature.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)."

Also a threat to autistic self-agency, as features associated with demand-avoidance are usually expressed by distressed persons, particularly when lacking other means,

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) Lines should not have been included.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)."

It also shows us that PDA is intrinsically about non-compliance of autistic persons. [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) have you seen this in the NICE guidelines?

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)."

Can be due to trauma. It is conflating non-autism features with autism. That is not acceptable to be as an autistic person & an autism stakeholder.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) Autism is not a process, & it is not caused by trauma. We as a community, especially autistic caregivers have more than enough problems due to myth autism is caused by trauma.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) Link to the document.  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/resources/autism-spectrum-disorder-in-under-19s-recognition-referral-and-diagnosis-pdf-35109456621253>

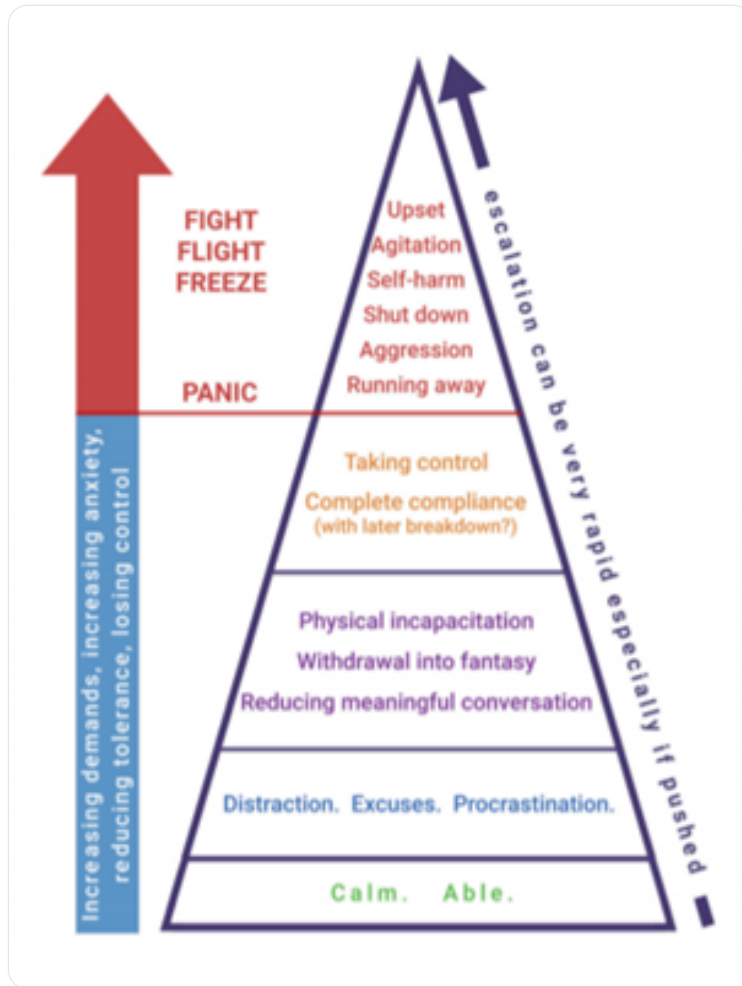
[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) I also would like to know who made the silly decision to view this "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)." as social communication issue, instead of an anxiety based RRBI it is portrayed as in the literature?

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) More importantly, who were advocating for this silly outlook?

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) It is a silly position, as it is widely accepted anxiety is not an autism symptom, but a co-occurring issue. That if an autistic person is anxious, it tends to be due how they are being treated/ situation they are in, or due aversive past experiences.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) Also "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)." reduces & reifies multiple diagnostic traits, & a transactional process in down into one vague description.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) In the process the description is not reflecting nuances of our understandings of demand-avoidance, & complex nature of such features. Likewise, not reflecting our understandings of autism.



[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) It is interesting that multiple features of autism, which contradict PDA stereotypes are noted in the guidelines.

"Reduced or absent imagination and variety of pretend play." p34.

"Reduced or absent social use of eye contact, assuming adequate vision." p34.

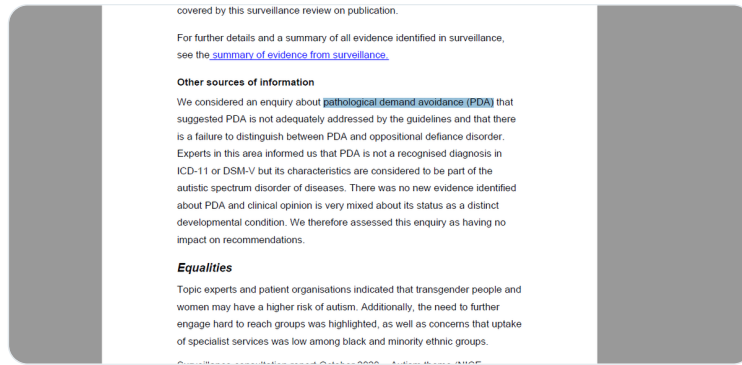
[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Which tells us such critique that there are clinical features associated with PDA that make it problematic viewing PDA as an autism spectrum disorder are still valid.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Which then reinforces the concerns over, who made the silly decision to include Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)." Likewise, who was advocating for this silly description to be included?

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Doing some digging, I came across this as part of recent review of NICE guidelines.

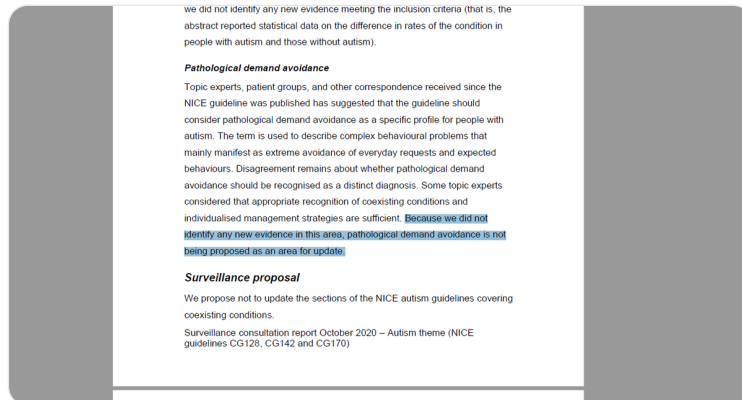
"We did not identify suitable evidence on possible links with anorexia or pathological demand avoidance that supported external feedback we received about these disorders."p48

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) That is in a response to this:



[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) That is from page 10.  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/documents/surveillance-review-proposal>

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) Page 47.



[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) That is NICE saying there is no new evidence from 2017 to justify them updating their guidelines, or act on a request to "distinguish between PDA and oppositional defiance disorder", presumably by "PDA is an ASD" supporters.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) I checked the evidence base for 2017 guidelines, there seems to be new evidence related to PDA in there. Which then raises odd questions about why "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)." is included in CG128?

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) I checked who are registered on list of represented stakeholders, include NAS & PDA Society. Autism East Midlands is not included.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#)  
[@Allison66746425](#) I suppose [@DrJudess03](#) you are going to still insist Help4Psychology is following NICE guidelines with respect to PDA? & How PDA is different from ODD?

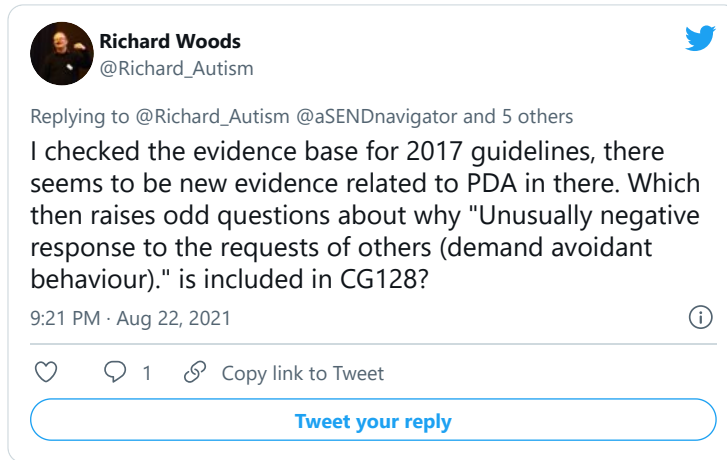
Despite NICE admitting the lack on evidence on both matters.

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@DrJudes03](#) "Some topic experts considered that appropriate recognition of coexisting conditions and individualised management strategies are sufficient." p47

i.e., coexisting conditions would include ODD.

Is also mentioned by NICE when discussing PDA. [@DrJudes03](#)

[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@DrJudes03](#) \*No new evidence\*



[@aSENDnavigator](#) [@AnnMemcott](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@Autism](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@DrJudes03](#) I will stop here for tonight. [@threadreaderapp](#)  
Please could you unroll for the final time tonight?

Thank you again, in advance.

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