

**Information Governance**

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8 June 2018

Reference no. 18190066

Dear

**Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act**

Thank you for your email of 10 May making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

**Request**

Please could you provide a copy of your threshold criteria/protocol/guidelines for access to community (Tier 2), specialist community (Tier 3) and inpatient (Tier 4) (whichever is applicable) CAMHS in your area, including any specific service thresholds for certain conditions such as eating disorders?

For each of the last five years since 2013/14, how many children and young people have been referred to community (Tier 2), specialist community (Tier 3) and inpatient (Tier 4) (whichever is applicable) CAMHS in your area?

Has there been a rise in the rate of referrals over the last five years since 2013/14?

What percentage of referrals to CAMHS services have been rejected or deemed inappropriate in the last financial year for which figures are available?

Please tick the reasons for refusal:

- a. Condition not serious enough to meet threshold for access to service
- b. Duration of condition not long enough (please state if you have a specific time limit)
- c. Condition or situation not suitable for CAMHS service intervention (eg child does not have a diagnosable mental health condition)
- d. Service lacks capacity to support the patient at this time

- e. Existence of co-morbidity which excludes support from your service (eg substance misuse)
- f. Young person above 18
- g. Other (please state)

Do you wish to make any further comments on the issue of referral to children's mental health services?

What is your maximum waiting time in days for CAMHS from a) referral to first appointment and b) referral to start of treatment in 2017/18 or the most recent financial year available?

What is your median waiting time in days for CAMHS from a) referral to first appointment and b) referral to start of treatment in 2017/18 or the most recent financial year available?

If you collect the above information in weeks please could you state whether your measure of a week is equivalent to seven days? If you collect the information in months please could you state the number of days in each month?

What is your procedure regarding referrals to specialist CAMHS who are rejected or deemed inappropriate? Please select all that apply:

- a. No action taken once referral is rejected or deemed inappropriate
- b. Inform referrer that young person was not accepted into treatment
- c. Signpost young person/parent/carer/young person's school/young person's GP to another service that is more appropriate
- d. Contact signposted agency on behalf of the young person/parent/carer
- e. Follow-up with young person/parent/carer/school/GP about whether the young person is accessing the signposted service or another service
- f. Other (please specify)

Do you wish to make any further comments on the issue of rejected referrals to children's mental health services?

Response:

The following figures are based on all referrals received to a CAMHS team during the periods below. The Trust are unable to provide further detail about the referrals that were signposted or didn't meet threshold, as the information is stored in individual patient electronic health records in an unstructured manner to collate the information would exceed the appropriate limit set by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act in regulation.

**Referrals** = number of referrals where referral received date was in the financial year (FY)  
**% increase** = the % increase in referrals received compared to the previous FY

**% signposted** = the proportion of referrals that were signposted to more appropriate services outside of the organisation or didn't meet threshold

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>% increase</b>	<b>% signposted</b>
2013-14	14,745		30%
2014-15	15,431	4.7%	34%
2015-16	17,644	14.3%	30%
2016-17	18,734	6.2%	29%
2017-18	20,268	8.2%	28%

After consultation and consideration with the service the Trust have concluded that, due to the level of review and validation required for waits data, which is similar to the signposting process above this task will exceed the 18 hours allowed for Fols. As a result we have not provided data for the items highlighted in red below.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for FoI Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance

