



30 January 2019

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Our Ref: FOI 3126

Thank you for your request concerning mental health treatment provided to patients in the years from 2012 to 2018.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

- How many patients received psychological therapies through the trust? Please break this data down by year and provide the age band, gender of the patient and the reason for treatment (e.g. depression, anxiety).**

Below represents the total number of referrals received by our IAPT/Wellbeing Services.

Calendar Years	Number of Referrals
2012	29348
2013	34727
2014	34800
2015	46096
2016	49756
2017	54906
2018 up to 30/11/2018	52118

As a Trust we provide HSCIC / NHS Digital our monthly activity data which they then use to calculate and publish our waiting times. This statistical release makes available the most recent IAPT monthly and quarterly data, including activity, waiting times, and outcomes such as recovery. Therefore, the information you are requesting for our Wellbeing/IAPT Services is already in the public domain¹.

Please follow this [link](#). The referral tables are by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), the codes for which are:

- 06T North East Essex CCG
- 07H West Essex CCG
- 06Q Mid Essex CCG
- 06K East and North Hertfordshire CCG
- 06N Hertfordshire Valley CCG

We were not the provider for West Essex until 1 July 2015.

¹ Section 21: Information is available through other means has been applied.

To provide the requested breakdown into gender and age banding would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450, therefore we have applied Section 12 to this part of your request².

It is estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to manually review each referrals i.e. for 2018 alone that would amount to 4,343 hours @ £25ph = £108,579 and under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority only has to comply with a request for information when the cost of compliance does not exceed the appropriate limit or when the cost of compliance is met by the applicant.

Please Note: We also provide psychological therapy in other parts of our services but it is not possible to extract data separately from these services as psychological therapies operate as an integrated part of the services.

- 2. What was the average waiting time for psychological therapies in your area? Please break this data down by year and provide the age band, gender of the patient and the reason for treatment.**

Please follow the link provided under question 1. It is not possible to break this information down into modality within the time constraints.²

- 3. What was the longest waiting time for psychological therapies in your area? Or, how long has the person who has been waiting the longest been waiting for?**

Please follow the link provided under question 1.

- 4. Please state the number of days they waited since they waited between the day they were added to the waiting list and their first appointment. Please break this data down by year and provide an explanation for the wait if available (e.g. administrative error).**

Please follow the link provided under question 1. It is not possible to provide you with an explanation for the wait within the time limit².

- 5. Please provide data on the number of patients who attempted suicide while awaiting psychological therapies. Please break the data down by year, age band, gender and the reason for treatment.**

We have applied Exemption Section 40(2) to the breakdown of attempted suicides by year, age, gender and reason for treatment. This is because releasing this information could identify individuals and constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act (2018)³. However, under Section 16 (Duty to provide advice and assistance) of the Freedom of Information Act we have provided the overall figures as detailed below.

From 2012 to 2018 there were 4 attempted suicides whilst waiting for psychological therapies.

- 6. Please provide data on the number of patients who died while awaiting psychological therapies in your area.**

From 2012 to 2018 there were 19 deaths whilst waiting for psychological therapies.

² Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

³ Section 40(2) - Personal Data has been applied. This is because by releasing this information could identify individual(s) and constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act (2018) has been applied

7. **Please state the number of days they had been waiting for treatment, and break the data down by case. Please include: Name of deceased person, their age, gender, the date of their death, the number of days they had been waiting and their cause of death.**

Although there are no special exemptions in FOIA for information about the deceased, we consider the breakdown of information requested to be sensitive and an actionable breach of confidence if disclosed. Therefore we have applied Section 41 to your request asking for the services user name, age, gender, date of death and cause of death⁴.

The waiting time ranged from 0 days to 71 days; with the majority waiting 18 days or less. As explained previously we are unable to provide the actual breakdown on a case by case basis.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).



⁴ Section 41 – Disclosure would constitute a breach of confidence has been applied.