

03 May 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team
99 Waverley Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954
Email: Hpkt.foi@nhs.net

Our Ref: FOI 3224

Thank you for your request concerning referrals and waiting times for our CAMHS services.

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

1. For each of the past three calendar years (2016, 17, and 18) how many children were referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your trust? Please divide that information by age (0-4 years) (5-9 years) (10-14 years) and (15-17 years).

Age at Referral	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
0-4 Years	11	16	9	36
5-9 Years	457	509	450	1416
10-14 Years	1176	1373	1418	3967
15-17 Years	1189	1414	1507	4110
Grand Total	2833	3312	3384	9529

2. For each of the past three calendar years (2016, 17, and 18) what was the average waiting time for patients referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your trust? Please divide that information by age (0-4 years) (5-9 years) (10-14 years) and (15-17 years).

We are unable to provide the average waiting time for the calendar year of 2018 within the time limit. To supply the information requested would involve reviewing each of the 589 cases and to carry out this task would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450¹.

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. For example based on the numbers of case quoted above, this would mean looking at each record to validate the data. It is estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to validate, i.e. 98.16 hours @ £25ph = £2,454.

¹ Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

However, under Section 16 of the Act we are able to provide you with the information requested for the calendar years of 2016 and 2017. The below table represents the average wait time in days.

Calendar Year	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Grand Total
2016	15.6	24.6	22.4	22.8	22.9
2017	39.4	28.8	30.8	29.7	30.1
Grand Total	32.4	26.5	26.6	26.8	26.7

3. **For each of the past three calendar years (2016, 17, and 18) how many children had to wait longer than four weeks for a referral? Please divide that information by age (0-4 years) (5-9 years) (10-14 years) and (15-17 years).**

Unfortunately we are unable to provide this information through our reporting system as it is not held in an reportable format. To supply the information would again invoke S12 – Cost of compliance would exceeds the appropriate limit¹.

4. **For each of the past three calendar years (2016, 17, and 18) how many children were referred away to other trusts due to limited capacity? (Please name those Trusts)**

Please see the answer to question 3; this is not something we can provide through our reporting system and would require a manual search of every single referral¹.

5. **For each of the past three calendar years (2016, 17, and 18) what was the longest waiting time for a patient referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your trust? If possible, please also include their age.**

Please see the answer to question 2 regarding data validation for 2018. However, we are happy to provide you with calendar years 2016 and 2017 longest wait times.

Calendar Year	Waited time	Age
2016	119	17
2017	161	11

Should you require further clarification, 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](#).

