

13 June 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/03271

Thank you for your request concerning primary school referrals.

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

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1 The total number of referrals made to mental health services by primary schools (for pupils aged 11 and under) for each of the last four financial years (including 2018/19)?**
- 2 The total number of referrals made to mental health services by primary schools (for pupils aged 11 and under) which were declined for each of the last four financial years (including 2018/19)?**
- 3 The known most number of times an individual child referred by a primary school has been declined mental health services over the last four financial years - including 2018/19 (i.e. this is according to records which are kept, please don't independently investigate if records are not able to be filtered to check this)?**
- 4 The longest known time spent by an individual child referred by a primary school on a waiting list for mental health services over the last 4 financial years - including 2018/19 (i.e. this is according to records which are kept, please don't independently investigate if records are not able to be filtered to check this)?**
- 5 The average waiting time spent by a child referred by a primary school to be seen by mental health services in 2018/19?**

**ANSWER**

As previously notified we are unable to provide this information as we do not have a way of identifying if a primary school has made a referral through our Electronic Patient Recording system<sup>1</sup>.

To establish if I could provide you with this information, I enquired with our Performance Department. They informed me that to provide the data would mean having to go through every CAMHS referral to see if it was made by a primary school.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

In the last 4 financial years there have been approximately 18,953 referrals to our CAMHS. In 2018/19 alone there were 5,323.

It is estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to manually review each referrals to see if it was made by a primary school. Even if you wished to narrow your request to the latest financial year (2018/19) it would exceed the 18 hour limit i.e. 443 @ £25ph = £11,089.

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](#).

