

6 January 2020

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Our Ref: FOI/03513

Thank you for your request concerning Cancer Patients Accessing Mental Health Services.

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

**I would like to request the following information:**

**1) The total number of cancer patients seeking mental health services under your jurisdiction for each year over the past 10 years.**

We are a large Mental Health (MH) Trust with responsibility for Acute and Rehabilitation MH services, Children & Adolescent MH services, Community Services, Older People MH services.

It is not possible to provide you with the number of patients seeking mental health services due to cancer over the past 10 years because we do not hold the information in a way that can be extracted. To provide this information would involve manually going through every single referral and this would invoke S12 - cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

For example in 2018/19 alone we received 27,353<sup>1</sup> to our CAMHS, Adult and Older People services. For us to provide the breakdown would involve us having to manually scrutinise every referral. It is estimated that it would take 5 minutes to extract the data i.e. 2,279.41 hours @ £25 = £56,985.25.

However, under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Duty to provide advice and assistance) I can tell you that over the past 10 years 74 patients were admitted to our Mental Health In-Patient wards with a diagnosis of cancer.

**2) Details on average waiting time that cancer patients have faced while waiting for your services for each year over the past 10 years.**

As explained above we cannot differentiate between referrals for mental health services from cancer patient's mental health referrals.

All our waiting times can be accessed through our Annual Reports<sup>2</sup>. Please follow this [link](#) where you will find the past 5 financial years.

If you wish me to email you the older ones, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

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<sup>1</sup> HPFT Annual Report 2018/19 : page 16

<sup>2</sup> Section 21 – Information is accessible through other means

I would also like to receive the following information, preferably with each factor placed in relation to each other:

- 3) **Details of the specific ailments cancer patients have been suffering that led them to seek one of your services for each year over the past 10 years.**

We do not hold this information<sup>3</sup>; Referral reasons are not specific.

- 4) **Details of the kind of cancer that each of these patients are suffering, and at what stage of development that cancer is.**

Please see attached list of cancers for the 74 patients mentioned in question 1.

We obtained this information by identifying the ICD-10 Codes for Cancer (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision) from our In-Patient wards.

We cannot provide you with the stage of cancer as we do not hold this information<sup>3</sup>.

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](#).



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<sup>3</sup> Section 1(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.