

23 July 2021

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Our Ref: FOI/03954

Thank you for your request concerning Adult Eating Disorder Waiting Times.

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

This request concerns the waiting times and outcomes for adults referred to your eating disorder services

1) Please provide the waiting times in days for each adult patient

- a) urgently
- b) routinely

admitted to an in-patient eating disorder service within your trust in each of the following calendar years. Please provide these figures as two separate lists of values in days clearly distinguishing between urgent and routine referrals.

- i) 2017
- ii) 2018
- iii) 2019
- iv) 2020
- v) 2021

We do not hold this information¹. HPFT does not operate an Adult In-Patient Eating Disorder Service.

2) Please provide the current waiting times in days for each adult patient that has been

- a) urgently
- b) routinely

referred to an in-patient eating disorder service within your trust but is waiting to be admitted as of the date of this request or the closest standard data recording date. Please provide these figures as two separate lists of values in days, clearly distinguishing between urgent and routine referrals

Please see the answer to question 1.

¹ 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.

3) **Please state the number of readmissions of adult eating disorder in-patients within your trust, where they have admitted again to in-patient eating disorder units within a year of being discharged from an in-patient unit in each of the following calendar years.**

- i) 2017
- ii) 2018
- iii) 2019
- iv) 2020
- v) 2021

Please see the answer to question 1.

4) **If held, please state the number of adult eating disorder patients who were referred to your trust and awaiting admission for in-patient eating disorder treatment that we admitted as emergency patients to a general hospital while on the waiting list before their admission. Please provide information for each of the following calendar years.**

- i) 2017
- ii) 2018
- iii) 2019
- iv) 2020
- v) 2021

We do not hold this information¹.

5) **a) If held, please state the number of adult eating disorder patients who were referred to your trust and were awaiting admission for in-patient eating disorder treatment who died while on the waiting list.**
b) If possible within the cost limit, please state if these persons died as a result of their eating disorder. Please provide information for each of the following calendar years.

- i) 2017
- ii) 2018
- iii) 2019
- iv) 2020
- v) 2021

We have never had any of our eating disorder service users die whilst waiting for an inpatient admission.

Please note, for question 1-2, providing me with a list of numeric waiting times for each patient does not constitute personal information under section 40(2), as it provides no identifiable information about patients. As there are likely to be large numbers of referrals with similar waiting times, and the number of overall referrals is unlikely to be greater than five, disclosure of this information would not pose any risk of jigsaw identification of patients.

I also note the NHS's data on child waiting times for eating disorder admissions does not obscure the number of patients waiting certain times where than number is less than 5.

Although we have not been able to provide you with the information for this request, Under S16 – duty to provide advice and assistance we may be able to provide some explanation of why

NHSE does not withhold information of less than 5 when we do. NHSE collates their data from numerous NHS Trusts and the risk of anyone potentially being identifiable is very low. Whereas if you are requesting information from a specific trust against a specific service the potential for the data to become identifiable is higher and therefore exempt from the duty to publish.

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](#).

