

18 May 2022

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/04165

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

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

1. **How many referrals to CAMHS services has there been since 2018/19? Please can this be broken down by year and broken down into those being referred to mental health services, and those referred for autism or learning difficulties?**

Referral Reason	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
ADHD	444	478	528
Diagnosed Autism Spectrum Disorder	5 or less	28	34
Mental Health	2837	2666	1931
Neurodevelopmental Condit Not Autism	5 or less	85	95
Neurodevelopmental Conditions	181	76	5 or less
Suspect Autism Spectrum Disorder	0	50	28

Due to the small numbers of some referrals we have applied Exemption Section 40(2)¹. This is because entries of 5 or less are considered sufficiently small enough to be potentially identifiable data. On this basis, this information is exempt from the duty to publish.

2. **What percentage of referrals to CAMHS services have been rejected or deemed inappropriate for each financial year since 2018/19?**

Please tick the reasons for refusal:

- a. Condition not serious enough to meet threshold for access to service
- b. Duration of condition not long enough (please state if you have a specific time limit)
- c. Condition or situation not suitable for CAMHS service intervention (eg child does not have a diagnosable mental health condition)
- d. Service lacks capacity to support the patient at this time
- e. Existence of co-morbidity which excludes support from your service (eg substance misuse)
- f. Young person above 18
- g. Other (please state)

We do not refuse referrals. All referrals received are triaged at the point of first contact so that they can be directed to the most appropriate service. For cases where the Trust does not provide the required service, our assessment team provide advice on the most appropriate service or source of support and advice.

¹ 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).

2. What is your maximum waiting time in days for CAMHS from
 a) referral to first appointment and
 b) referral to start of treatment since 2018/19 and for each year after that?

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Maximum Wait To Assessment (Days)	662	230	596
Maximum Wait To Treatment (Days)	845	532	324

CAVEAT: Across Hertfordshire, there is currently a significant wait for CAMHS ADHD assessments. We are working with our commissioners and partners to improve the situation for local families. Most of the waits over the 18 weeks period are for ADHD cases rather than generic CAMHS cases.

3. What is your median waiting time in days for CAMHS from
 a) referral to first appointment and
 b) referral to start of treatment since 2018/19 and for each year after that?

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Average Wait To Assessment (Days)	32	40	14
Average Wait To Treatment (Days)	33	43	17

If you collect the above information in weeks please could you state whether your measure of a week is equivalent to seven days? If you collect the information in months please could you state the number of days in each month?

Please can this be broken down by the length of waiting time. I.e for each year can you please give the figure of how many were waiting 0 – 2 weeks, 2 – 4 weeks, 4 – 6 weeks, 6 – 8 weeks, 8 – 10 weeks, and 10 weeks or more.

Number of Referrals Waited For Assessment

Financial Year	0-2 Weeks	2-4 Weeks	4-6 Weeks	6-8 Weeks	8-10 Weeks	10+ Weeks	Grand Total
2018/19	396	625	237	220	105	113	1696
2019/20	540	541	179	188	174	381	2003
2020/21	873	492	45	30	6	5	1451

Number of Referrals Waited For Treatment

Financial Year	0-2 Weeks	2-4 Weeks	4-6 Weeks	6-8 Weeks	8-10 Weeks	10+ Weeks	Grand Total
2018/19	885	639	406	319	190	264	2703
2019/20	1101	636	286	272	239	699	3233
2020/21	1251	555	133	71	23	67	2100

4. Do you wish to make any further comments on the issue of rejected referrals to children's mental health services and overall waiting times for children accessing mental health services?

The right of access created by the Freedom of Information Act only applies to recorded information. This does not include requests asking for a person's comments, opinions or general advice.

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](#).

