

19 July 2022

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/04356

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

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

I am asking the following questions under the Government's Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1) How long is the suggested national waiting time for a young person to be seen by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)?

This information is already in the public domain¹. Please follow this [link](#) to the NHS England Mental health access and waiting time standards website.

a. How long is the waiting time at CAHMS Herts at your trust?

Currently, the longest current wait is 167.14 weeks (1170 days).

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.

b. Please provide an average length of time in weeks for the following years:

	Average Waiting Time in Weeks
Jan to and including May 2022	4.86
Jan to and including December 2021	3.20
Jan to and including December 2020	3.26
Jan to and including December 2019	7.94
Jan to and including December 2018	4.88
Jan to and including December 2017	4.92

3) Between January 2017 and May 2022 how many young children have been on your waiting list?

From January 2017 to May 2022 there have been 8,124 children on our waiting list.

¹ Section 21 – Information is available through other means

- 4) a) Of these, how many have tried to take their own life?
b) how many people have taken their own life?

Please provide the answers for 4a and 4b in a year-by-year breakdown for the following:

Jan to and including May 2022
Jan to and including December 2021
Jan to and including December 2020
Jan to and including December 2019
Jan to and including December 2018
Jan to and including December 2017

We are unable to provide the number of attempted suicides or suicide verdicts for those on the waiting list.

To provide this information would involve manually going through the children's medical record and we do not believe reading through individuals medical records for the purpose of a FOI request would be in line with the GDPR Data Protection Principles or the Caldicott Principles.

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](#).

