

2 August 2023

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/04757

Thank you for your request concerning referrals to our Highly Specialised Services for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCDs) and Applied Neuroscience.

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

- 1. Please can you let me know how many people (of any age) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of Body Dysmorphic Disorder (F45.22) have been referred to the Highly Specialised Services for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCDs) and Applied Neuroscience each year (2015-2023).**
- 2. How many people (of any age) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of Body Dysmorphic Disorder (F45.22) have been treated by the Highly Specialised Services for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCDs) and Applied Neuroscience each year (2015-2023).**
- 3. How many people (of any age) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (F42) have been referred to the Highly Specialised Services for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCDs) and Applied Neuroscience each year (2015-2023)**
- 4. How many people (of any age) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (F42) have been treated by the Highly Specialised Services for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCDs) and Applied Neuroscience each year (2015-2023)**

We are unable to provide you with data for 2015 to 2016 because our records start from 2017.

Please see below the total number of referrals to the Highly Specialised Services (HSS) and the total number of referrals accepted by Hertfordshire HSS.

We only hold the number of service users being treated by the Hertfordshire HSS service, which is part of a consortium of various units across the country.

All referrals received would be for OCD or BDD or both. It is not possible to breakdown the data into individual diagnosis because this information is not identified separately in a reportable format. Please see explanation given under question 5.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan-Mar)
Referrals Received	29	28	36	44	36	48	12
Referrals treated by HSS Hertfordshire	18	16	16	15	13	6	*5 or less

* Due to the small numbers of referrals received in Quarter 1 of 2023/24 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.

5. Please can this be broken down by year into:

- a) **age**
- b) **gender**
- c) **ethnicity**

We are unable to provide you with the requested breakdown without manually going through every single referral.

It is estimated that it would take 20 minutes per referral to scrutinise for the diagnosis, age, gender and ethnicity i.e. 77.66 hours @ £25 - £1,941.66² because this is not recorded in an easily extractable manner. Therefore we have applied exemption S12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

In addition, 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.

d) Type of funding used.

Once a service user is accepted into the HSS service treatment is funded through NHS England.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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 S12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit



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](#).

