

1 December 2023

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI/04965

Thank you for your request concerning Mid Essex Talking Therapy staff qualifications.

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

**This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act and refers to recorded information held by or on behalf of Mid-Essex Talking Therapies (METT).**

**When a patient completes an online self-referral form, METT sends a letter to the client's GP.**

**This request refers to the qualifications of the person who is responsible for completing and signing that letter.**

- 1. Please provide recorded information showing the minimum clinical qualifications required for this role.**

This information is not recorded<sup>1</sup>.

However, under Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance we can inform you that when a patient completes an online self-referral form, the information provided on the form is triaged to see if the patient is suitable for treatment in the Talking Therapies Service. If they are identified as suitable, the referral is accepted and passed on to the administrative team to book them in for an initial appointment. However, if the patient includes any information in their self-referral that indicates that they feel at risk to themselves, to others or from others, the form is passed on to a duty worker who attempts to make contact with the patient to clarify the situation in case more immediate action is required.

Should contact by telephone not be possible, a letter is sent to the patient requesting that they contact the service and ask to speak to a duty worker. A copy of this letter is sent to the patient's GP for their information.

Duty workers are usually qualified CBT Therapists or Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners. They may also be members of the leadership team, i.e. Deputy Clinical Lead, Senior Clinician or Service Manager.

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<sup>1</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.

2. **Please provide details of the actual clinical qualifications for anyone who carried out this role in September 2023. If there are a number of staff who all perform this task, please list the clinical qualifications separately but anonymously by referring to them as Staff Member A, Staff Member B, etc.**

Please be advised that the information you are requesting is beyond the scope of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) as the request is for personal data of individual employees. Therefore we have applied exemption 40(2)<sup>2</sup>.

Individuals' qualifications are considered to be personal data and the publication of these qualifications / training record would not be in line with the GDPR Data Protection 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](#).



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<sup>2</sup> 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).