

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: [EPUT.FOI.23.3054](#)
Date Received: [12th July 2023](#)

Information Requested:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your NHS Trust. Please may you provide me with:

1. The average number of days patients waited between referral and their first appointment for perinatal mental health services, broken down by financial year, since 2010. Please note mobilisation of service took place in 2017.

Financial Year	Average No. Days Between Referral & First Appt.
2017/18	32
2018/19	27
2019/20	34
2020/21	24
2021/22	28
2022/23	18

2. The average number of days patients waited between referral and their second appointment for perinatal mental health services, broken down by financial year, since 2010. Please note mobilisation of service took place in 2017.

Financial Year	Average No. Days Between Referral & Second Appt.
2017/18	57
2018/19	56
2019/20	63
2020/21	51
2021/22	57
2022/23	37

3. The total number of patients that had their referral closed for perinatal mental health services closed, after an assessment appointment, broken down by financial year, since 2010. Please note mobilisation of service took place in 2017.

Financial Year	No. Patients Referral Closed After Assessment
2017/18	80
2018/19	195
2019/20	300

2020/21	532
2021/22	831
2022/23	929

4. The single longest period of time that a patient waited between referral and their first treatment appointment for perinatal mental health services, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, but may be recorded in individual records. Therefore in order to confirm whether this information is held we would need to individually access all records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete.

Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
 - (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
 - (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
 - (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
 - (a) by one person, or
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
 - (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated
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Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT's Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link

<https://eput.nhs.uk>