

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.23.3026
Date Received: 19th of June 2023

Information Requested:

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

At Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT), we have our East Anglian Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS) service, please see following website <https://eput.nhs.uk/our-services/op-courage-the-veterans-mental-health-and-wellbeing-service/>.

Op COURAGE is an NHS mental health specialist service designed to help serving personnel due to leave the military, reservists, veterans and their families.

Developed by veterans, for veterans, Op COURAGE is available across England and since 2017, has helped nearly 30,000 people. Op COURAGE has previously been known as the Veterans Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS).

Please could you provide information on the following?

1. Do you accept referrals for currently serving Military Personnel for an ADHD Assessment?

We accept referrals through GPs so if an individual from the Military were referred through this route and did not have any additional mental health concerns that required input from mainstream mental health services we would process the referral as usual.

2. If the answer to (1) is "no", to what agency or service do you direct the serving military person to.

Please see response to question 1.

3. If the answer to (1) is "yes", how many referrals have you received, by year, for the last 5 years?

≤5

Please note that the trust's policy is not to provide patient or staff numbers, where the response is less than or equal to five (≤5) as it would potentially allow identification of the individual patient/staff and would therefore be personal data.

The trust considers that release of that information would breach GDPR/DPA18 principles on the grounds that it would not be fair in all the circumstances. This information is therefore exempt under section 40 of the FOI Act 2000.

4. How many assessments for ADHD have you completed, by year, for the last 5 years, for currently serving Military Personnel?

≤5

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5. How many positive ADHD diagnosis have you made, by year, for the last 5 years, for currently serving Military Personnel.

≤5

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6. Do you prioritise currently serving Military Personnel for an ADHD assessment?

The service we offer is not an emergency or crisis one and therefore people are seen in the order in which they are referred.

7. What categories of people from the general public do you prioritise for an adult ADHD assessment?

As above neither the NE/West nor the MSE ADHD services are emergency or crisis services. We will see people in the order by which they are referred into the service.

8. What support do you offer to currently serving military personnel who you diagnose with ADHD?

The support offered in both services for individuals diagnosed with ADHD is off access to a psychoeducation group which covers a number of areas including the following:- ADHD Symptoms and Diagnosis; ADHD causes, brain chemistry, exercise and diet; Medication, sleep and sexual health; Impulsive spending, money management and risk prevention; Organisational systems, prioritising; Attention, Memory, Motivation (reducing distractions); Relationships, Work and Socialising; CBT – Thoughts, Feelings, Emotions. The service will also offer the option to explore pharmacological treatment for ADHD.

9. What is your current waiting time for all adult referrals for an ADHD Assessment?

We can neither confirm nor deny whether some of the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. We are unable to provide the average time taken between diagnosis and treatment for children, as in some instances these can occur at the same time and we cannot differentiate between the two. To do so would require a manual trawl through patient records to identify the activity that stopped the referral to treatment clock for each one. 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. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

10. How many Shared Care Agreements do you currently have for serving military personnel with an ADHD diagnosis?

≤5

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The trust considers that release of that information would breach GDPR/DPA18 principles on the grounds that it would not be fair in all the circumstances. This information is therefore exempt under section 40 of the FOI Act 2000.

Applied Exemption:

Section 40 (Personal information):

- (1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
- (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—
 - (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
 - (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.
- (3) The first condition is—
 - (a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “data” in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene—
 - (i) any of the data protection principles, or
 - (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and
 - (b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.
- (4) The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 2018 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject’s right of access to personal data).
- (5) The duty to confirm or deny—
 - (a) does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1), and
 - (b) does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that either—
 - (i) the giving to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 2018 or would do so if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of that Act were disregarded, or
 - (ii) by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 2018 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(a) of that Act (data subject’s right to be informed whether personal data being processed).
- (6) In determining for the purposes of this section whether anything done before 24th October 2007 would contravene any of the data protection principles, the exemptions in Part III of Schedule 8 to the Data Protection Act 2018 shall be disregarded.

- (7) In this section— “the data protection principles” means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;
 - “data subject” has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act;
 - “personal data” has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.
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- **Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):**
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- (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.
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- (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>