

Date: **31 May 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5201**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your request below:

**Your Request**

*I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.*

*What percentage of referrals to CAMHS services have been rejected or deemed inappropriate in the last financial year for which figures are available?*

*Please tick the reasons for refusal:*

- a. Condition not serious enough to meet threshold for access to service*
- b. Duration of condition not long enough (please state if you have a specific time limit)*
- c. Condition or situation not suitable for CAMHS service intervention (eg child does not have a diagnosable mental health condition)*
- d. Service lacks capacity to support the patient at this time*
- e. Existence of co-morbidity which excludes support from your service (eg substance misuse)*
- f. Young person above 18*
- g. Other (please state)*

*What is your maximum waiting time in days for CAMHS from a) referral to first appointment and b) referral to start of treatment in 2017/18 or the most recent financial year available?*

*What is your median waiting time in days for CAMHS from a) referral to first appointment and b) referral to start of treatment in 2017/18 or the most recent financial year available?*

*If you collect the above information in weeks please could you state whether your measure of a week is equivalent to seven days? If you collect the information in months please could you state the number of days in each month?*

*Do you wish to make any further comments on the issue of rejected referrals to children's mental health services?*

### **Our Request for Clarification**

Great Ormond Street Hospital is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. We are therefore unclear what you mean by CAMHS services.

Please can you clarify whether your request is focused on any of the following points?

- CAMHS services provided within local communities?
- Outpatient referral appointments in general hospitals?
- A Tier 4 service?
- A CAMHS OP service that is not Tier 4?

### **Your Response to Our Request for Clarification**

*We have sent FOI requests to trusts providing different tiers or types of provision for children so we kept the questions purposefully vague.*

*Could you please provide the information requested in reference to all services you deem relevant, so the 1st, 2nd and 4th points along with any others? I understand that the referral and waiting times questions are not necessarily applicable to Tier 4 services.*

### **Our Response**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. Our Tier 4 provision is a children's inpatient unit that represents 10 of approximately 70 children's beds in the country. All referrals to these facilities are sent via an NHSE Form 1 and support is given for a referral to the appropriate unit for each individual case. NHS England (NHSE) is the organisations that would centrally hold information relating to the numbers of referrals nationally.

Our former PIMS system did not centrally record information on referrals rejected; nor would the system have provided an accurate record of the reason for a referral. The systems would have only captured information to confirm the total number of referrals received and made with no real distinction between rejected and accepted.

We have made some enquiries with our information services team to see whether any information can be identified in relation to the maximum and median waiting times from referral to the appointment and when treatment commenced between 01/04/2017 and 31/03/2018. First appointments are recorded with having been attended; but have been unable to identify any information showing the 'start of treatment' date. First appointments are defined as having the earliest appointment date for the referral and patient having attended the appointment; but Information on referral rejection or closure, as recorded, do not match any of the reasons you have outlined in your request for information. Please see the number of CAMHS first appointments in the following table covering financial year 2017/2018:

Number of first appointments	793
Maximum waiting time (days)	250
Median waiting time (days)	45

Please note:

The information provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We trust the information provided is sufficient and helped to answer any issues, concerns or questions. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information team**

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust  
Email: [foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk)

**[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]**

### **Your Rights**

If you are not dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI team and quote your reference number on all correspondence relating to your request.

You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team  
Great Ormond Street Hospital  
LONDON  
WC1N 3JH

If you are still not satisfied with your response, you also have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF