

Date: **19 December 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5566**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information, which we have processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your following request for information:

Your Request

I would like to request the following via the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. *Which suicide risk assessments do you use at your trust?*
2. *What training do your staff undertake in using those suicide risk assessments?*
3. *What training do your staff have in assessing risk of suicide in general?*
4. *What is the procedure your staff follow when they identify a person at risk of suicide?*
5. *How many people have been assessed for risk of suicide between 2012 and 2020, if possible by month and department*
6. *How many people were identified as at risk of suicide between 2012 and 2020, if possible by month and department*

Our Request for Clarification

The Trust contacted you for clarification on the point where you refer to 'staff' means mental health staff only, such as, psychologist and psychiatrists; or whether you means all GOSH staff?

Your Response to Our Request for Clarification

You responded with the following clarification:

"Reference to 'staff' is regarding all employees that come into contact with patients during the patients contact with a healthcare service e.g. doctors and nurses. This is not specifically mental health staff. Research shows that the majority of suicide risk assessments are carried out by health professionals outside of mental health services. Trusts have a policy for self-harm and administering these assessments as a safeguarding measure is part of that".

Our Response

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. Please see our response to your request for information below:

Questions 1- 4:

The Trust ensures that all children and families and the staff working with them have access to mental health support at all times. Psychological therapists are embedded in paediatric clinical services (inpatient wards and medical outpatient clinics) to contribute to diagnosis, maximise health outcomes, minimize the emotional consequences of physical health conditions, including any concerns regarding self-harm. There is a policy for access to on-call psychiatry, which is clearly displayed around the Trust and ensures a pathway of access 24 hours a day.

All staff are required to complete local training to ensure they are aware of access to Psychologists and Psychiatrists within the Trust. The CSPs are also trained in risk assessment and are included in the policy. In addition, mental health and risk assessment is included in the policy, which is part of the Medical and Non-medical education programmes with a view to upskill front-line staff, including nurses and paediatricians of all grades. A new initiative has been to include a simulation training to assess self-harm and mental health risk.

Questions 5-6:

The Trust does not centrally record this information and would be documented in patient notes within individual records. We have estimated to conduct a search of thousands of patient records would most definitely exceed the 18 hour cost limit stipulated for processing a request for information under the Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. Even to conduct a search of 100 records to identify, locate and extract any relevant information has been estimated to take 3 hours on average to read through 1 x patient record to extract and review the information; which means a calculation of approximately 3 x 100 records would require a minimum of 300 hours to complete the work. Your request is therefore exempt under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows the Trust to refuse a request where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for Section 12 purposes is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 - SI 2004 No. 3244 ('Fees Regulation').

Under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation the appropriate cost limit for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded, if it would require more than 18 hours' work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Please note:

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

We hope the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions or any issues or concerns. 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

[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]



NHS

**Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children**
NHS Foundation Trust

Your Rights

Should you have any questions relating to the response you have received to your request for information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team. Alternatively, you are entitled to make a request for an internal review within two months from the date of receiving our final response to your original 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, however, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the FOI process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510