

FOI 3742

22nd May 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Referrals and Access

The total number of referrals received by the Trust's mental health services in each of the periods above, broken down by adult services and CAMHS.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

The number of referrals accepted and the number rejected or signposted elsewhere in each period, with the most common reasons for rejection.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

The number of patients currently on an active caseload within adult mental health services and CAMHS.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

Waiting Times

The average (mean and median) waiting time, in weeks, from referral to first assessment appointment for: (a) adult mental health services, (b) CAMHS, (c) psychological therapies, (d) eating disorder services, (e) ADHD assessment services, and (f) autism assessment services.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

The longest waiting time, in weeks, currently recorded from referral to first assessment for each of the services listed in question 4.

Response:

Please see attached document for adult mental health response.

The average and longest waiting time, in weeks, from first assessment to commencement of treatment for each of the services listed in question 4.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

The number of patients currently waiting longer than 9 weeks, 13 weeks, 26 weeks, and 52 weeks for (a) first assessment and (b) treatment, broken down by service.

Response:

CAMHS wait in Southern Health and Social Care Trust does not exceed 9 weeks

Please see attached document for adult mental health response.

The number of patients whose referral was closed or discharged without treatment while on a waiting list, in each of the periods above.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

3. Crisis, Inpatient and Out-of-Area Care

The number of mental health crisis presentations to Emergency Departments within the Trust in each period.

Response:

Please see attached document for response.

The number of adult and CAMHS inpatient mental health beds commissioned by the Trust, and the average bed occupancy rate in each period.

Response:

CAMHS inpatient beds which is Beechcroft is managed by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Please see attached document for adult mental health response.

The number of patients placed in out-of-area inpatient placements (including placements outside Northern Ireland) in each period, the total cost of these placements, and the average length of stay.

Response:

CAMHS – Nil

This information is not available for adult mental health services.

The number of under-18s admitted to adult mental health wards in each period.

Response:

< 5 under 18 were admitted to an adult mental health ward during 2023/24.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality, in line with this duty the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

4. Workforce

The current number of funded whole-time equivalent (WTE) posts within mental health services, broken down by staff group (consultant psychiatrist, other medical staff, mental health nursing, psychology, allied health professionals, social work, support staff).

Children, Young People and Women's Services (CYPWS) Response:

	2022/23 Funded Staffing Level	2023/24 Funded Staffing Level	2024/25 Funded Staffing Level	2025/26 At Month 11 Feb 26 Funded Staffing Level
Staff category				

Consultant	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Other Medical Staff	10.08	9.28	9.28	9.28
Nursing	50.37	49.84	50.44	51.64
AHP	12.47	12.47	12.47	12.47
Professional and Technical	6.14	6.14	7.14	7.14
Social Services	58.00	58.13	54.57	54.43
Support Staff	23.04	24.04	25.04	24.04

Notes

Professional and Technical includes clinical psychologists and counsellor/therapists.

Support staff includes administration, art therapists and domestics.

Mental Health and Disability response:

Payroll Category	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2022/23	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2023/24	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2024/25	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2025/26
Medical	51.95	52.08	52.55	52.55
Nursing	403.25	389.97	357.31	364.74
AHP	37.01	31.91	31.32	33.59
Professional & Technical	23.61	38.35	38.35	38.99
Administration	92.11	97.12	96.72	91.12
Support Services	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.82
Social Services	75.54	75.36	107.18	105.86
Domcare	34.98	31.82	33.79	33.75
Mental Health Services Total Funded WTE	720.07	718.23	718.84	722.42

Notes: Mental Health services is not compiled on the basis of the request with elements of services for Medical, Psychology and Mental Health Inpatient Services for the 5 MH Bluestone wards reported within other divisions and is compiled on this basis. Funded levels and budgets are subject to review and change with development of Community Mental Health Mental Health teams and developing specialties within Psychology Services. Mental Health Service excludes Mental Capacity Act and Memory Services.

Figures listed as M12 2025/26 stated as draft and subject to confirmation by external audit at the date of reply.

The number of vacant WTE posts within mental health services at the end of each period, broken down by the same staff groups.

Children, Young People and Women's Services (CYPWS) Response:

Staff Category	2022/23 WTE	2023/24 WTE	2024/25 WTE	2025/26 At Month 11 Feb 26 WTE
Consultant	0	0.77	1.53	0.09
Other Medical Staff	1.98	3.49	4.88	4.88
Nursing	12.4	6.29	1.76	0
AHP	0	0	0	0
Professional and Technical	0.71	0	2.44	0
Social Services	11.83	6.06	0	0
Support Staff	0	1.05	1.74	6.75

Note

Vacant WTE is based on variance between funded staffing level and actual WTE in March, therefore at a point in time. For 2025/26 this is as at February 2026.

Mental Health and Disability response:

Payroll Category	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2022/23	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2023/24	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2024/25	Mental Health funded (WTE) FY M12 2025/26
Medical	0	0	0	0
Nursing	0	0	0	0

AHP	11.54	6.88	2.55	3.08
Professional & Technical	0	9.03	11.76	0.03
Administration	0	0.22	2.54	5.70
Support Services	0	0	0	0
Social Services	2.16	5.57	3.33	3.02
Domcare	10.23	6.77	2.18	11.86

Notes: Figures compiled based on noted detailed at table 13. Figures provided for net vacant WTE does not detail WTE exceeding the funded WTE. Figures listed as M12 2025/26 stated as draft and subject to confirmation by external audit at the date of reply.

The total spend on agency and locum staff within mental health services in each period.

Children, Young People and Women's Services (CYPWS) Response:

YEAR	LOCUM £'K	AGENCY £'K
2022/23	-	348
2023/24	1	378
2024/25	-	199
2025/26	-	86

Mental Health and Disability Response:

Financial Year	Total Agency & Locum Expenditure within Mental Health Services £M
M12 March 2022/23	6.48
M12 March 2023/24	4.23
M12 March 2024/25	3.63
M12 March 2025/26	3.10

Notes: Mental Health services is not compiled on the basis of the request with elements of services for Medical, Psychology and Mental Health Inpatient Services for the 5 MH Bluestone wards reported within other divisions and is compiled on this basis. Funded levels and budgets are subject to review and change with development of Community Mental Health Mental Health teams and developing specialties within Psychology Services. Mental Health Service excludes Mental Capacity Act and Memory Services. Figures listed as M12 2025/26 stated as draft and subject to confirmation by external audit at the date of reply

5. Finance and Serious Incidents

The total budget allocated to mental health services in each period, expressed as both an absolute figure and as a percentage of the Trust's total budget.

Children, Young People and Women's Services (CYPWS) Response:

Year	Budget £'m	% of Trust Overall budget
2022/23	9.4	1%
2023/24	9.3	1%
2024/25	10.6	1%
2025/26 (Month 11)	10.3	1%

Mental Health and Disability Response:

Financial Year	Mental Health Services Budget £M	Mental Health Services Percentage of the Trust's total budget %
M12 March 2022/23	51.4	6%
M12 March 2023/24	53.1	6%
M12 March 2024/25	52.0	5%
M12 March 2025/26	58.3	5%

Note: Budget provided refers to net income and expenditure recurring revenue budget and excludes estates services. Mental Health services is not compiled on the basis of the request with elements of services for Medical, Psychology and Mental Health Inpatient Services for the 5 MH Bluestone wards reported within other divisions and is compiled on this basis. Funded levels and budgets are subject to review and change with development of Community Mental Health Mental Health teams and developing specialties within Psychology Services. Mental Health Service excludes Mental Capacity Act and Memory Services. Figures listed as M12 2025/26 stated as draft and subject to confirmation by external audit at the date of reply.

The number of Serious Adverse Incidents (SAIs) recorded within mental health services in each period.

Response:

Year	CYPWS SAI's CAMHS led	MH
01/04/2022- 31/03/2023	0	36
01/04/2023- 31/03/2024	0	27
01/04/2024- 31/03/2025	0	22
01/04/2025- 31/03/2026	0	20
01/04/2026- 31/03/2027	0	<5

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The number of recorded deaths by suicide of patients who were under the care of, or had been discharged within the preceding 12 months from, the Trust's mental health services in each period

Response:

Confirmation of cause of death is provided by NI Coroner's Service and this information is available from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

To submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to NISRA, email your request directly to the Department of Finance FOI team at:

foi@finance-ni.gov.uk

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net