

FOI 1766

14/07/23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. In each of the following financial years, how many adults with known drug and/or alcohol issues or dependence were referred to your psychological talking therapies service by a GP?

This information is not available, as drug and/or alcohol issues are not clinically coded at referral. This means that these specific referrals cannot be extracted from the large volume of referrals that we receive. In addition to this if drug and/or alcohol were primary reason for referral they would not be triaged to the psychological talking therapies service.

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of patient records. As such we cannot provide this as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of departments it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

If data for the number referred ‘by a GP’ is not available, please provide the number referred from primary care.

- i) 2018-19
- ii) 2019-20
- iii) 2020-21
- iv) 2021-22
- v) 2022-23

1. How many of those in question 1 were a) accepted and b) declined for support from your psychological talking therapies service? Please break the information down by the following financial years.

- i) 2018-19
- ii) 2019-20
- iii) 2020-21
- iv) 2021-22
- v) 2022-23

Please provide a figure for c) other, where relevant. For example, if the individual was referred but didn’t engage further with your service and was therefore neither accepted nor declined.

As per above.

2. In each of the following financial years, how many adults were referred to your psychological talking therapies service by drug and alcohol services?

- i) 2018-19 10 referrals
- ii) 2019-20 14 referrals
- iii) 2020-21 less than 10 referrals
- iv) 2021-22 less than 10 referrals
- v) 2022-23 less than 10 referrals

3. How many of those in question 3 were a) accepted and b) declined for support from your psychological talking therapies service? Please break the information down by the following financial years.

Please provide a figure for c) other, where relevant. For example, if the individual was referred but didn't engage further with your service and was therefore neither accepted nor declined.

YEAR	ACCEPTED	REJECTED	OTHER/NO FURTHER ACTION
2018-2019	Less than 5		Less than 10
2019-2020	Less than 5	Less than 5	10
2020-2021	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
2021-2022	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
2022-2023	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5

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.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net