

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.5166.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service waiting times
<b>Date of Request:</b>	28 January 2021

**Requested:**

1. Within your mental health trust (Hywel Dda University Health Board) what was the average CAMHS waiting time to be seen in the following situation:  
  
After referral to CAMHS, to the point of receiving first treatment
  - a. In 2019, monthly breakdowns please
  - b. In 2020, monthly average breakdowns please
  
2. Within your mental health trust (Hywel Dda University Health Board ) what was the average CAMHS waiting time to be seen in the CAMHS Eating Disorder Clinic:  
  
After referral to the CAMHS Eating Disorder clinic, to the point of receiving first treatment
  - a. In 2019, monthly breakdowns please
  - b. In 2020, monthly average breakdowns please
  
3. Within your mental health trust (Hywel Dda University Health Board) how long (in number of patients waiting to be treated, following a referral to CAMHS) was the CAMHS waiting list for all treatments?
  - a. in 2019, monthly breakdown please
  - b. in 2020, monthly breakdown please
  
4. Within your mental health trust (Hywel Dda University Health Board) how long (in number of patients waiting to be treated, following a referral to CAMHS) was the CAMHS Eating Disorder Clinic waiting list?
  - a. in 2019, monthly breakdown please
  - b. in 2020, monthly breakdown please
  
5. Within your mental health trust (Hywel Dda University Health Board) what were the longest that anyone has waited for the following CAMHS treatments, following a referral to CAMHS?
  - a. Talking therapies
    - a.i. in 2019
    - a.ii. in 2020
  
  - b. Eating disorder recovery
    - b.i. in 2019
    - b.ii. in 2020
  
  - c. All other treatment areas
    - c.i. in 2019
    - c.ii. in 2020

6. Within your mental health trust (Hywel Dda University Health Board) how many CAMHS patients were prescribed medication for anxiety?

- a. In 2019
- b. In 2020

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the requested information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (SCAMHS) records to identify any information that fulfils your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

Under section 16 of the FoIA, we are required, as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested.

1. & 3. The UHB provides, within the tables below, the SCAMHS wait time from referral to first treatment, broken down by month, for 2019 and 2020. Please note, the information requested for the period January to July 2019 is not recorded centrally; therefore, a section 12 exemption has been applied for this period.

2019	0 - 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 - 5 weeks	5 - 6 weeks	6 - 7 weeks	7 - 8 weeks
August	31	*	8	22	*	*	0	0
September	45	6	6	14	*	0	0	0
October	47	*	11	28	*	0	0	0
November	54	6	12	34	*	0	0	0
December	31	*	15	22	*	0	*	0

2020	0 - 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 - 5 weeks	5 - 6 weeks	6 - 7 weeks	7 - 8 weeks
January	35	*	*	25	11	*	*	0
February	44	9	12	20	6	*	*	*
March	33	*	10	14	7	*	*	0
April	20	*	*	*	*	0	*	0
May	27	10	*	*	*	0	0	*
June	26	9	19	7	*	0	*	0
July	28	14	17	6	0	*	0	0
August	33	12	7	*	*	0	0	0
September	36	7	12	16	0	0	0	0

October	43	*	11	15	7	0	0	0
November	55	6	6	20	16	*	*	*
December	61	7	7	24	14	*	0	*

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.

2. The UHB confirms that its SCAMHS does not have a specific Eating Disorder Service (EDS). However, young people may be accepted if a referral for assessment is received.

Additionally, SCAMHS has recently been successful in securing funding to develop a specific EDS, which will enable the service to provide treatment and support for more young people with eating disorders.

4. See response to question 2.

5. & 6. Section 12 of the FoIA exemption applied; see full explanation above.