

Reference:	FOI.2159.19
Subject:	Children and young people's mental health services
Date of Request:	17 December 2019

Requested:

1. For each financial year from 2015/16 until 2018/19, could you please provide me with
 - a. The number of number of people under the age of 18 who were assessed following a referral for a routine assessment.
 - b. The number of people under the age of 18 who were assessed following a referral for an urgent assessment.
 - c. The number of people under the age of 18 who were assessed following a referral for an emergency assessment.
2. For each financial year from 2015/16 until 2018/19, could you please provide me with
 - a. The number of people under the age of 18 who were assessed following a referral for a routine assessment and who waited over 28 days
 - b. The number of people under the age of 18 who were assessed following a referral for an urgent assessment and who waited over 48 hours, and
 - c. The number of people under the age of 18 who were assessed following a referral for an emergency assessment and who waited over 4 hours:
3. For each financial year from 2015/16 until 2018/19, could you please provide me with the number of people under the age of 18 who were new to secondary care (accepted referrals)
4. For each financial year from 2015/16 until 2018/19, could you please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of assessments of people under the age of 18. This may, for example, include the following categories, but these are not an exhaustive list of assessment outcomes.
 - a. Rejected referrals
 - b. Accepted referrals
 - c. Referrals signposted to primary care
 - d. Referrals signposted to third sector services

This data should be provided in an xlsx or csv file.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has provided some of the information requested within an Excel Spreadsheet, Attachment 1, as requested.

1. The UHB has provided the number of routine and urgent assessments following referral for people under 18 for the requested timeframes. The UHB is unable to breakdown the data for 2015/16 as this would require manual scrutiny of all patient records as explained within the Section 12 exemption below.
2. The UHB has provided the number of patients who waited more than 28 days for a routine assessment and those who waited more than 48 hours for an urgent assessment during the requested timeframes. The UHB does not utilise the emergency 4 hour timescale.

3. The UHB has provided the number of all accepted referrals during the requested timeframes for people under 18 new to secondary care services.

The UHB is unable to provide you with all the information requested as the information is not held centrally. 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 (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Prior to 2016/17, the UHB did not keep a central record of the types of referrals received. Therefore, in order to provide you with a breakdown of the number of routine or urgent referrals received, a manual search of relevant patient records would need to be undertaken. Additionally, in order to provide you with the information requested for question 4 the UHB would need to do a manual trawl of all patient records for the requested periods to identify the outcome of the assessments. It is estimated that conducting a search to provide the information for question 4 alone would cost:

2,906 referrals x 15 minutes per record = 726.50
726.50 @ £25 per hours = £18,162.50

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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.