

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.2094.19
<b>Subject:</b>	Mental health assessment waiting times
<b>Date of Request:</b>	4 December 2019

**Requested:**

1. After the first initial talking therapy session/mental health assessment how many patients waited more than the nationally set waiting time target of 6 weeks to begin their recommended psychological/talking therapy as determined by the initial assessment?

(Please provide a breakdown from the last 3 years - 2016 - 2019, in calendar years not fiscal.)  
Should services be broken down into counties/divisions please provide a breakdown of this information.

2. And of those, how many waited (please provide a breakdown from the last 3 years - 2016 - 2019, in calendar years not fiscal):
  - More than 3 months
  - More than 6 months
  - More than 9 months

**Response:**

1. The UHB has provided the number of patients that waited more than the nationally set referral to treatment target (RTT) for psychological therapies in Wales to begin their recommended psychological/talking therapy, as determined by initial assessments for the financial years requested to date within the table below:

Financial Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Number of patients</b>	179	449	291	400

2. The UHB has provided the number of patients that waited more than the RTT for the requested timeframe, broken down into the provided periods, within the table below:

Financial Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>0-12 weeks</b>	995	1174	838	341
<b>13-26 weeks</b>	391	570	226	304
<b>Over 26 weeks</b>	179	449	291	400

Following the introduction of the Matrics Cymru system, the mental health (MH) service have been progressing towards providing high intensity interventions only. Earlier this year, the MH service was offering low intensity intervention by way of emotional coping skills which has now been removed from the current menu list resulting in a reduction of RTT's, although demand remains high for all high intensity interventions offered.