

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.14970.24
<b>Subject:</b>	Mental health referrals and wait times
<b>Date of Request:</b>	31 July 2024

**Requested:**

I'm making a freedom of information request for the following information for the time-period November 2022 to present:

1. A month by month breakdown of the number of under 18s referred to Hywel Dda University Health Board mental health crisis services;
2. A month by month breakdown of the number of under 18s waiting to access Hywel Dda University Health Board mental crisis services, after receiving a referral;
3. A month by month breakdown of the number of under 18s waiting to access therapeutic intervention (for a mental health crisis) after being assessed by a Hywel Dda University Health Board mental health crisis service.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within Attachment 1 the information requested around mental health services.

However, it should be noted that the UHB does not record the information exactly as requested for question 3 of your request. The UHB provides a month-by-month total of patients waiting for intervention. The data provided includes those who were assessed by the Crisis Team and then placed on a waiting list for additional support/ intervention, as well as those referred from routine sources within the MHL D service; for example, referrals for routine initial assessment (not crisis).

Furthermore, it should be noted that not all young people would have to wait following a crisis referral; it is dependent on the needs of the young person at that time. All young people placed on waiting lists are reviewed throughout their wait, for the most appropriate intervention.

Where the figures in the spreadsheet 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 (less than 5), 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 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.