

Reference:	FOI.958.19
Subject:	Referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) from primary schools
Date of Request:	12 June 2019

Requested

1. The total number of referrals made to mental health services by primary schools (for pupils aged 11 and under) for each of the last four financial years (including 2018/19)?
2. The total number of referrals made to mental health services by primary schools (for pupils aged 11 and under) which were declined (rejected) for each of the last four financial years (including 2018/19)?
3. The known most number of times an individual child referred by a primary school has been declined mental health services over the last four financial years - including 2018/19 (i.e. this is according to records which are kept, please don't independently investigate if records are not able to be filtered to check this)?
4. The longest known time spent by an individual child referred by a primary school on a waiting list for mental health services over the last 4 financial years - including 2018/19 (i.e. this is according to records which are kept, please don't independently investigate if records are not able to be filtered to check this)?
5. The average waiting time spent by a child referred by a primary school to be seen by mental health services in 2018/19?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of referrals received by primary schools or details regarding the referrals, 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 (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Referrals from schools are usually made by the school nurse and not directly from the schools themselves, subsequently the referrals do not record whether the child attends primary or secondary school. Therefore, in order to provide the information being requested, the UHB would be required to manually scrutinise the requests received to identify the patients age at referral.

Additionally, for those aged 11 at referral the UHB would be required to cross reference their month of birth with the date of referral to establish whether they attend primary or secondary school. In order to provide the information requested, the UHB would be required to manually scrutinise the patient records of all patients referred into the CAMHS team by school nurses for requested timeframe.

It is estimated that providing this information for 2018/19 alone would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as stated within the Freedom of Information Act:

160 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 40 hours
41 hours @ £25 per hours = £1,000

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 2000 Act), 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 2000 Act, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. We have therefore provided the number of referrals received from school nurses, which would include both primary and secondary school age children, within the requested timeframe. We have also provided the number of these referrals that were declined in each of the four financial years.

Financial Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Referrals received	91	133	170	160
Referrals declined	43	56	121	119