

20 July 2023

Our Ref: RFI 51875

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Psychological Talking Therapies from 2018-2023**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 27 June 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services and Prison Healthcare Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Robyn Watterson
Information Governance Officer

Q1. In each of the following financial years, how many adults with known drug and/or alcohol issues or dependence were referred to your psychological talking therapies service by a GP?

If data for the number referred 'by a GP' is not available, please provide the number referred from primary care.

- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23
- 2018-19 to 2022-23 inclusive, as a total across the five financial years

Q2. How many of those in question 1 were a) accepted and b) declined for support from your psychological talking therapies service? Please break the information down by the following financial years.

- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23
- 2018-19 to 2022-23 inclusive, as a total across the five financial years

Please provide a figure for c) other, where relevant. For example, if the individual was referred but didn't engage further with your service and was therefore neither accepted or declined.

Q3. In each of the following financial years, how many adults were referred to your psychological talking therapies service by drug and alcohol services?

- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23
- 2018-19 to 2022-23 inclusive, as a total across the five financial years

Q4. How many of those in question 3 were a) accepted and b) declined for support from your psychological talking therapies service? Please break the information down by the following financial years.

- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23
- 2018-19 to 2022-23 inclusive, as a total across the five financial years

Please provide a figure for c) other, where relevant. For example, if the individual was referred but didn't engage further with your service and was therefore neither accepted or declined.

A1-4. Within the Trust, all Mental Health Primary Care referrals are directed to the Mental Health Assessment Centres where the individual receives an initial assessment to identify their assessment and intervention needs. Individuals who require secondary care Psychological Services are forwarded to the Trust Psychological Services. As such, the Psychological Service does not receive direct referrals from either Primary Care or Drug and Alcohol Services.

Secondly, the Psychological Service does not hold information relating to the drug and/or alcohol dependence status of all clients on a centralised database and an extensive trawl of records would be required to try to locate, gather and verify this. This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12 (1).

12 (1) Section (1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.