

FOI314 Response

Request

To whom it may concern,

Data Request under the Freedom of Information Act (2001)

The prevalence of Gaming Disorder (i.e., video game addiction) in the UK is unknown at this point and as it becomes a public issue, there is growing but limited information to support treatment interventions Gaming Disorder. Despite this, there appears to be a clinical need for those exhibiting such a behaviour. As British researchers in the field, we would like to gather information about current treatment provisions in the area of Gaming Disorder given that it is now recognised as a clinical disorder in the latest revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) as a diagnosable condition. It is imperative to document how accessibility to NHS talking therapy services can be improved for those exhibiting such behaviours.

We submitted a similar request in March 2017, this is a follow up to request to examine if there have been any changes in treatment provisions over the last three years.

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2001), we would like to request the following information:

Types of services offered for Gaming Disorder.

- Number and job title of qualified mental health professionals within each service who offer treatment for internet gaming disorder.
- Number of behavioural addiction specialists within the Trust.
- Number of child and adolescent specialists who offer treatment for this disorder.
- Lowest age limit for referral to service.

We would also like to gather specific referral data for any individuals that had been referred for treatment of problem gaming (over the last five years) within the trust as follows:

- Number of referrals where problem gaming was the primary reason for referral.
- Age of referrals.
- Gender of referrals.
- Type of treatment and/or talking therapies offered.
- The estimated time spent on a waiting list prior to initial contact.
- How many attended first appointment.
- How many never attended.
- How many completed treatments.
- With those who completed treatment, how many presented with risk pertaining to their gaming behaviours.
- How many dropped out of treatment part way through.
- How many were still in treatment.

Response

Background Information:

The Trust is one of four partners jointly responsible for the delivery of drug and alcohol services for Solihull residents through Solihull Integrated Addiction Service (SIAS). Our partners in Solihull are Aquarius, Welcome and Changes UK.

The service is aimed to prevent and treat substance misuse and improve community safety.

The Trust is unable to provide a response to your request for information, this is because of the following reasons:

- Although the Trust's addiction service covers gambling issues, we do not have a specific service in relation to gambling.
- The Trust's system does not capture the requested referral data at the level of detail requested, as 'problem gaming' is not a reason for referral and therefore unable to obtain the relevant data.