

FOI 068/2021 Response

Request

We previously obtained information about waiting times through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. We thank you for your previous response. We are now looking to update that information for the last year and we would like to make another FOI request regarding the waiting times for specialist multi disciplinary (Tier 3)* community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Our request consists of five questions:

Unless otherwise specified, all questions relate to data from the previous full financial year (2020/2021).

Wait to initial appointment

1. Overall based on the total number of referrals to Community CAMHS, what is your minimum, maximum and median waiting times in days from the date referral received to initial appointment with healthcare professional (this includes a CHOICE or triage appointment and/or telephone or video call assessments)?
2. What is your minimum, maximum and median waiting times in days from the date referral received to initial appointment with healthcare professional broken down by primary reason for referral?

Wait to treatment

3. Overall based on the total number of referrals to Community CAMHS, what is your minimum, maximum and median waiting times in days from the date referral received to start of treatment?
4. What is your minimum, maximum and median waiting times in days from the date referral received to start of treatment broken down by primary reason for referral?
5. How many referrals were received from each of the referral routes (listed in the Excel document) over the last four financial years (2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021)? Please provide data as a number, rather than a percentage.

We kindly request that the information is sent digitally in a spreadsheet format: Excel format (.xlsx) would be ideal if possible – the attached spreadsheet (Excel WAIT Study FOI Request Comp.xlsx) provides a template to enter the requested data. If you do not wish to use this Excel sheet, we recommend you look at it to clarify the data we are requesting.

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We appreciate that some services no longer use a Tiered approach; therefore, we have specified what we mean by each Tier below so you can align it to the services provided for by your Trust:

- Tier 1. Early Intervention and Prevention. Usually provided in community settings such as schools and children's centres, and provided for by health visitors, school nurses, GPs.
- Tier 2. Early Help and Targeted Services. This may be some CAMHS services, but also covers school based or community counselling, educational psychologist support, targeted youth support teams, and family support.
- Tier 3. Specialist CAMHS. This is specialist support for children, young people and their families provided for by specialist multi-disciplinary teams who will usually provide outpatient services in a community clinic setting. This will cover services for mental health and learning disabilities.
- Tier 4. Highly Specialist CAMHS. This is highly specialist outpatient and inpatient services. These can include secure forensic adolescent units, eating disorder units, specialist neuro-psychiatric teams and other highly specialist teams, usually serving more than one region/district.

If you only have data available for Tier 2/3 combined services, this data would be preferable than no data. Otherwise, we do not require information about Tier 1/2 (early intervention / uni-disciplinary) or Tier 4 (inpatient or very highly specialist) CAMHS.

*Clarification was sought to confirm which previous response the Requester is referring to. The Requester has confirmed that the previous response was FOI 266.

Response

Background Information:

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Barnardo's and Autism West Midlands work together to provide emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Solihull within our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Solar.

We provide multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment of children and young people with mental health or severe emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The service currently accepts children and young people, until their 19th birthday, who are residents in the borough of Solihull, go to school or college in the Solihull area, or have a Solihull GP.

For information on children and young people in receipt of CAMHS services in Birmingham, please redirect your request to Forward Thinking Birmingham Service which is hosted by Birmingham Women's and Children's Trust.

Please see attached spreadsheet and note the following:

- The methodology used for FOI266 has been reused to provide a response for FOI 068/2021.
- The data provided is in relation to the financial year 2020/2021 (starting 1st April and ending 31st March)
- The Trust is unable to provide the maximum waiting time. This is because obtaining the requested information will require exhaustive and manual measures that exceeds the appropriate threshold of carrying out this task. The Trust therefore, rely on the exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as we cannot fulfil this part of your request.