

FOI 0212/2023 Response

I am a training counsellor on the Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling course with Key Counselling Training, who are based in Birmingham. Along with three other students we are currently preparing for a research and presentation project which is due in the coming months.

The research topic area we have picked is domestic abuse, with the hypothesis *“when it comes to domestic abuse, Caucasian women access more counselling than Ethnic Minority Women”*. Part of the project we are doing qualitative and quantitative research.

We are looking for quantitative data, which we want to convert into our research project to build on the hypothesis above.

We were wondering if you could provide data in the following areas:

Domestic Abuse cases received for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the ethnicity of these groups, age groups, gender of the victims.

And if you can break the above data down into these regions as well, Birmingham, Solihull, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry and Wolverhampton?

This so we can as a group answer the following questions below.

- 1. How many numbers of domestic abuse cases have you received in the last few years?**

Clarification: We are requesting data for the last 2 years; we are requesting information as to how many individual referrals you have had as a result of Domestic Abuse.

The Trust is unable to provide a response, this is because we do not record the requested information in a reportable way.

Obtaining the requested information requires searching of free-text fields within the Trust’s electronic patient records, which therefore requires exhaustive and measures that are beyond the scope of the time constraints on an FOI to validate the return.

The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny this aspect of your request.

- 2. What ethnicity groups do these domestic abuses come from?**

Clarification: Here we are seeking data regarding age and ethnicity of individual referrals you have received for victims of Domestic Abuse over last 2 years.

The Trust is unable to provide a response, this is because we do not record the requested information in a reportable way.

Obtaining the requested information requires searching of free-text fields within the Trust’s electronic patient records, which therefore requires exhaustive and measures that are beyond the scope of the time constraints on an FOI to validate the return.

The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny this aspect of your request.

3. What is the gender of these domestic abuses come from?

The Trust is unable to provide a response, this is because we do not record the requested information in a reportable way.

Obtaining the requested information requires searching of free-text fields within the Trust's electronic patient records, which therefore requires exhaustive and measures that are beyond the scope of the time constraints on an FOI to validate the return.

The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny this aspect of your request.

4. What are the ages of these domestic abuse's cases?

The Trust is unable to provide a response, this is because we do not record the requested information in a reportable way.

Obtaining the requested information requires searching of free-text fields within the Trust's electronic patient records, which therefore requires exhaustive and measures that are beyond the scope of the time constraints on an FOI to validate the return.

The Trust therefore rely on exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny this aspect of your request.

5. What facilities do you provide for cases of domestic abuse?

Clarification: We are requesting data regarding what counselling facilities you have for victims of Domestic Abuse. Is there an in-house counsellor that the victims can speak with upon referral or are they put on a waiting list to be referred to an external counsellor? Is this service offered as part of your referral processes or do you wait for victims to request counselling support?

Clarification: Also, when speaking about facilities we are referring about counselling, legal advice, refugee referrals etc.

BSMHFT do not have a counsellor that survivors of domestic abuse (DA) can talk to for specific DA support.

However, We do have an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) employed by Women's Aid (funded by COVID monies) that sits directly in 2 clinical teams in BSMHFT.

This is specific DA support for our female service users and female staff members who are experiencing DA.

Please note that support for female service users is limited to 2 teams due to case load capacity and funding, which runs out next year.

If DA is disclosed/identified, clinical teams are encouraged to complete a DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence) risk assessment/explore the relationship in a safe space and signpost to the relevant specialist DA service such as Women's Aid, Roshni, Mankind or consider a MARAC referral.

6. Do you provide any counselling services for domestic abuse cases?

N/a please refer to the response provided in question 5.

7. Do you get funding for counselling services within your organisation?

No.