

FOI 0425 2025 Response

Request

Dear Trust Officer,

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide the following data relating to irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and gastroenterology/dietetic services.

1. Patient Referrals

a. The number of patients diagnosed with IBS who have been referred to gastroenterology services in each of the past five years.

b. The number of patients diagnosed with IBS who have been referred to dietetic services in each of the past five years.

c. What criteria are used to determine whether an IBS patient is referred to gastroenterology vs dietetics?

2. Workforce

a. The number of dietitians currently employed by the Trust who are trained or specialised in gut health, IBS, or gastrointestinal disorders.

3. Waiting Times and Waiting List Size

a. The current average waiting time for a gastroenterology appointment, and the number of IBS patients currently on the gastroenterology waiting list and for how long.

b. The current average waiting time for a dietitian appointment, and the number of IBS patients currently on the dietetic waiting list and for how long.

4. Service Capacity and Referral Pathways

a. If the Trust is unable to offer appointments to all patients with IBS who are referred to gastroenterology or dietetic services, please describe the process followed.

- Where are these patients directed or signposted to (e.g., community services, external providers, self-management resources)?

5. Service provision:

- Does the Trust offer any specialist IBS clinics or multidisciplinary clinics?
- What patient education or self-management resources are provided for IBS?
- Does the Trust outsource IBS-related dietetic or gastroenterology care to private or third-party providers? If so, to which providers and how many patients in each of the last five years?

6. Follow-up and discharge policy:

- What is the Trust's policy for follow-up appointments for IBS patients?
- Under what circumstances are IBS patients discharged back to GP care?

Response

Please note that Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust explicitly provide mental health services and do not provide physical healthcare like an Acute Trust.

Your request for information is therefore not applicable to the Trust.