

Dr George Gillett

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Our Ref: FOI-FC-2064-10.12.19

8 January 2020

Dear Dr Gillett,

**Re: Your application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in respect of your recent enquiry for information held by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 10 December 2019.

You requested the following information:

Our enquiries relate to the provision of liaison psychiatry services in adult general hospitals, including patients in inpatient wards or A&E departments. This research is conducted as part of an Academic Foundation Programme research post. No specific grant was awarded for this project. All findings will be de-identified from Hospitals or Trusts before publication.

1. At which general hospital(s) does your Trust provide liaison psychiatry services?

For each of the above hospitals, please answer the questions below:

2. Is there a written policy about prioritising patients who have been referred to liaison psychiatry, or determining which referrals to accept? (If No, please move to Question 6).
3. If so, is this policy made available to all (psychiatry and non-psychiatry) clinicians working within the general hospital? If so, please specify where (e.g. Trust intranet)?
4. Please attach the policy document if possible. We aim to extract only certain information from the policy document, so if the complete policy document cannot be sent, please send the following information:

- a. Details on which locations this policy covers and which patients (i.e. inpatient ward/A&E/referrals) the policy covers.
  - b. Details on any guidelines to prioritise or determine which referrals to accept. Specifically:
    - i. Patients should be medically fit for discharge prior to review
    - ii. Patients should be medically fit for assessment prior to review
    - iii. No restriction applied; all patients are reviewed
    - iv. Any other methods used to prioritise patient referrals (please specify)
  - c. Whether the policy states which professional group (e.g. psychiatrist, psychologist, nurse) should review the referral and/or assess the patient? If so, please specify.
  - d. When was the policy last reviewed or updated?
5. When (if at all) was local practice last audited against this policy and what were the findings?
  6. At your Trust, how do doctors refer patients to liaison psychiatry for review (e.g. by telephone, by electronic referral system, by email, by fax)?

We have dealt with your request under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act which entitles you to be provided with any information held by a public authority, unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Please find below our response:

1. At which general hospital(s) does your Trust provide liaison psychiatry services?  
**North Middlesex University Hospital & Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust Barnet Hospital.**

For each of the above hospitals, please answer the questions below:

2. Is there a written policy about prioritising patients who have been referred to liaison psychiatry, or determining which referrals to accept? (If No, please move to Question 6).  
**Yes for both.**
  3. If so, is this policy made available to all (psychiatry and non-psychiatry) clinicians working within the general hospital? If so, please specify where (e.g. Trust intranet)?  
**North Middlesex –Available on the intranet.**  
**Barnet - Not the policy, but there is a referral process information leaflet which has been sent around to all departments within the hospital (also attached).**
  4. Please attach the policy document if possible. We aim to extract only certain information from the policy document, so if the complete policy document cannot be sent, please send the following information: **Policy documents attached for both hospitals.**
- a. Details on which locations this policy covers and which patients (i.e. inpatient ward/A&E/referrals) the policy covers.
  - b. Details on any guidelines to prioritise or determine which referrals to accept. Specifically:
    - i. Patients should be medically fit for discharge prior to review
    - ii. Patients should be medically fit for assessment prior to review
    - iii. No restriction applied; all patients are reviewed
    - iv. Any other methods used to prioritise patient referrals (please specify)

c. Whether the policy states which professional group (e.g. psychiatrist, psychologist, nurse) should review the referral and/or assess the patient? If so, please specify.

d. When was the policy last reviewed or updated?

5. When (if at all) was local practice last audited against this policy and what were the findings?

**North Middlesex - Some aspects audited e.g. ED referrals.**

**Barnet – Peer plan review completed in November. Team accredited by the Psychiatric Liaison Accredited Network (PLAN). In order to be accredited the team had to also have self reviews, review by the accreditation committee and to complete a final report.**

6. At your Trust, how do doctors refer patients to liaison psychiatry for review (e.g. by telephone, by electronic referral system, by email, by fax)?

**North Middlesex – Mainly telephone, sometimes face to face discussion and occasionally via email.**

**Barnet - If the patient is on a ward the referrals are sent through the Royal Free Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system. If it is an A&E referral this is usually beeped through and discussed on the telephone.**

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Yours sincerely

**F. Cording**

**FOI Manager**