

19 December 2019

George Gillett

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Dear Mr Gillett

### Freedom of Information Request 332

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 10 December 2019.

Our answer to your questions is as follows:

**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?**  
Wexham Park Hospital, Wexham Street, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 4HL

**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).**  
No this is primarily because the psych liaison services never refuse to take referrals unless the referrer is just seeking advice only in which case a full referral will not be made

**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)?** Not Applicable

**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:** Not Applicable

**a. Details on which locations this policy covers and which patients (i.e. inpatient ward/A&E/referrals) the policy covers.** Not Applicable



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**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)**

Not applicable as all referrals accepted

**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.**

Not applicable

**d. When was the policy last reviewed or updated?** Not Applicable

**5. When (if at all) was local practice last audited against this policy and what were the findings?** Not Applicable

**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)?**

Referrals from the Emergency Department are received through the team mobile 24/7 as we only have an hour to respond Referrals from the wards are received by Fax or telephone dependant on the response needed by the referrer for these referrals we have a 24 hour response time

We hope this response fulfils your request.

Should you not be satisfied with our response, you have a right to complain and request a review. You should forward your complaint to [foi.bht@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.bht@berkshire.nhs.uk).

In the meantime if you have any queries then please contact us at the above address.

Yours sincerely



Julie Hill  
Company Secretary

