

## FOI2890 – Concerning Adult Eating Disorder waiting times.

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We can confirm that Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust can advise as follows in response to your Freedom of Information Request:

1. What is the Trust's target waiting time for adults who are urgently referred to Eating Disorder services to start treatment?
2. What is the Trust's target waiting time for adults who are routinely (i.e. non-urgently) referred to Eating Disorder services to start treatment?

We do not have a target time for start of treatment for either urgent or routine referrals. We do, however, aim to assess urgent referrals within 5 days and routine referrals within 6 weeks.

3. How many adults were urgently referred to the Trust's Eating Disorder services in 2018/19?
4. How many adults were routinely (i.e. non-urgently) referred to the Trust's Eating Disorder services in 2018/19?

A total of 813 referrals were received by eating disorder services in 2018/19. Information about whether the referrals were urgent or routine is not held centrally and would only be found within individual patient records. We therefore believe that a Section 12 exemption applies – see below for more information about this exemption.

5. What was the average waiting time to start treatment for adults urgently referred to the Trust's Eating Disorder services in 2018/19?
6. What was the average waiting time to start treatment for adults routinely (i.e. non-urgently) referred to the Trust's Eating Disorder services in 2018/19?

Unfortunately we do not hold information to answer questions 5-6 on a database that would allow easy extraction. Collating this data would require a manual trawl of referral records and electronic patient records, and therefore we believe that to provide this level of detail would exceed the appropriate limit set out in section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Fees Provisions.

The appropriate limit is defined by these two documents as £450 for NHS Trusts set out at an arbitrary rate of £25 per hour and 18 hours of compliance with an individual request. We believe that there are approximately 813 records for the timescale requested, and that it would take approximately 10 minutes to log into each record and to then locate the information based on the variety of formats used. Accordingly, we confidently estimate that it would take at least 135 hours to undertake such a manual trawl and, therefore, we believe that using a section 12 exemption to not undertake this trawl is appropriate.



7. How many adults urgently referred to the Trust's Eating Disorder services are currently waiting to start treatment?

45

8. How many adults routinely (i.e. non-urgently) referred to the Trust's Eating Disorder services are currently waiting to start treatment?

163 (including 43 where insufficient information was provided by the referring body and liaison is ongoing to determine whether the referral has been made to the most appropriate agency)