

**Corporate Services and
Governance**

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Corporate HQ
J B Russell House
Gartnavel Royal Hospital Campus
1055 Great Western Road
GLASGOW
G12 0XH



Ana Fox

Date
Your Ref
Our Ref
Email

12 January 2023

SENT BY EMAIL TO:
[request-1052724-
b305d06b@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1052724-b305d06b@whatdotheyknow.com)

FOI 19994
foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

Thank you for your request received on 27 November 2023 for the provision of the following information:

Gender Dysphoria Service at Sandyford

We are treating your request under our procedures for responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

I apologise that this response has been provided to you outside the statutory timescale of 20 working days as set out in FOISA. We aim to respond to all requests promptly and within timescales but unfortunately this is not always possible. I am sorry for the delay and any inconvenience this has caused.

Our response to your request is as follows:

We can confirm that across NHSGGC including gender services at the Sandyford Clinic we are currently under considerable pressure. All our staff are doing all they can to address these challenges.

People wishing to access our gender services are unfortunately experiencing considerable waiting times. Gender services are a complex specialty which demands a particular set of clinical skills and other qualities from staff, and it is true that we are facing specific challenges around recruitment in some areas.

We have taken a range of steps to recruit staff to the gender service, using channels such as professional publications, general media and social media. We are currently advertising for posts, and we will monitor progress. We are constantly reviewing our recruitment procedures in this area, and we are prepared to widen our search for the right staff if that is deemed appropriate.

The National Gender Identity Clinical Network for Scotland (NGICNS) was established on 1st April 2014 to help implement the Gender Reassignment Protocol (GRP) across Scotland. The network supports improvements to trans healthcare in Scotland.

[GG&C Gender Identity Clinic – National Gender Identity Clinical Network for Scotland](#)

Please note where there are small numbers these are presented as <5 to protect patient identification. This is due to the possibility that disclosure of actual figures would pose a risk that an individual or individuals could be identified from that information. This would be contrary to, and would put NHSGGC in breach of, Data Protection principles. In assessing this, we have followed guidelines issued by NHS NSS Information Services Division. A key principle of the guidelines discourages presenting numbers which are less than 5.

We therefore decline to provide the actual figures on the basis that this is personal information. Section 38 of FOISA provides that information is exempt information if it constitutes personal information and that to disclose this information would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The exemptions within FOISA that we have relied upon to withhold this information are section 38(1)(b) read in conjunction with section 38(2)(a)(i) of FOISA. This is an absolute exemption which means that if information is withheld under this exemption, we are not required to consider whether it is in the public interest to withhold it.

Yearly, since 2015:

1. How many patients, under 18, have been referred to the Gender Dysphoria Service at Sandyford?

NHSGGC can confirm that the table below provides the information requested.

Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Young People	363	390	351	616	490	216

For each year:

2. How many patients have received prescriptions for GnHR (puberty blockers)?

NHSGGC can confirm that the table below provides the information requested.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2016	7	20	19	7	9	<5	0	5

3. How many patients have received prescriptions for cross-sex hormones?

4. And further, could each set of data be split between male and female?

NHSGGC can confirm that Q3 & Q4 is difficult to answer - although we assess and diagnose Gender incongruence we are not the main prescribers of the Gender affirming hormone treatment. We don't generate prescriptions in our system that would be reportable as the drugs used are commonly prescribed for many conditions and not related to Gender. Therefore under Section 17 of FOISA I am required to inform you that the information you have requested is not held by NHSGGC.

I hope that this is helpful. If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you have a right to request a review of this decision within 40 working days of receiving this response. Your request for review must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you wish us to carry out a review, please write to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Corporate HQ, JB Russell House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH or send an email to: foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

If following a review you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to ask for advice, assistance or to make a formal appeal in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the outcome of a review. The Commissioner can be contacted at:

enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info
<https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal>

or at: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

If following appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner you still remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law against the decision of the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Should you require any clarification about this letter or the right to request a review please contact me at the details at the top of the first page of this letter.

Yours sincerely

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER