



Department
of Health

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
G18, Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

www.gov.uk

LJ Brogan
request-430917-2202ef8f@whatdotheyknow.com

9 October 2017

Dear LJ Brogan

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1097712

Thank you for your request dated 11 September in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

"Dear Department of Health,

I made a similar request below to NHS England however they do not hold the information requested but they recommend I contact the Department of Health as you may be able to provide the information.

I would be most grateful for any information you can provide to the following requests -

- 1. When did the NHS in England introduce Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to offer treatment for children and adolescents suffering mental health problems?*
- 2. Prior to the creation of CAMHS did the NHS in England provide a similar service or was the treatment of mental health problems undertaken by the GP in consultation with local services e.g. mental health professionals, social workers, etc*
- 3. When did the NHS begin to offer psychiatry and psychotherapy as methods of treatment for children and adolescents on the NHS in England?*
- 4. I understand a GP would need to refer a child or adolescent to a psychiatrist whereas other professionals, e.g. social workers, teachers, etc, can refer a child to a psychologist or psychotherapist. Between 1975 and 1985 would only a GP be able to refer a child to a psychiatrist and not any other professional e.g. social worker or teacher?*
- 5. If a child patient was referred to a psychiatrist by a GP would that referral, and any subsequent treatment, be noted in the medical records of that patient?*

Thank you in advance for any information that can be provided.

Yours faithfully,

LJ Brogan "

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The DH does not hold the information you requested.

Outside the scope of the Act and on a discretionary basis you may find the following information useful;

Department led reviews of CAMHS were made in 2008 and 2015. Information on DH led reviews of mental health service can be found here;

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130123195336/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_090399

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414024/Childrens_Mental_Health.pdf

The following article may prove useful on the NHS pre CAMHS '*Growing Up? A History of CAMHS (1987–2005) CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH*'
Volume 10, Issue 3, September 2005, Pages: 111–117, David Cottrell and Abdullah Kraam

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1475-3588.2005.00366.x/full>

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Edward Franklyn

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