



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mr/ Ms S Carroll
request-652188-9f0b1caf@whatdotheyknow.com

23/03/2020

Dear Mr/Ms Carroll,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1208060

Thank you for your request dated 4 March, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

“Dear Department of Health and Social Care,

- 1. I am requesting figures for the Number of Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists Counsellor's employed by the DHSC. If these could be broken down into the different Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) within the UK.*
- 2. What are the current waiting times for specialist long term psychological support within the CCG's? As well as nationwide?*
- 3. Of those employed, how many are experienced trained to a sufficient level to provide specialists long-term psychological support in the area of life long deep rooted trauma?*

*I look forward to your response.
Yours faithfully,”*

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

For ease of reference I have numbered the individual elements of your request.

DHSC holds some of the information you have requested.

- 1. We have interpreted your request to mean “I am requesting figures for the Number of Psychiatrists, Clinical Psychologists Counsellor's employed by the NHS”.*

I can confirm that the Department holds information relevant to your request. However, as the information held by the Department is in the public domain we will, under Section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible to the applicant by other means), refer you to the published source from NHS Digital Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS)

Workforce statistics, which includes data for all NHS Trusts and CCGs in England. The latest published data can be found here:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-workforce-statistics/november-2019>

Outside the scope of the FOIA and on a discretionary basis, you may be interested to see the data most relevant to your request in the attached document. The data taken from the NHS Digital HCHS Workforce statistics report show the number of psychiatrists, psychological therapists (counsellors) and applied psychologists (clinical psychologists) in each trust in England as at November 2019, the latest available data. Data is in full-time equivalent (FTE) and rounded to the nearest whole number. If the trust name is not there, then there are 0 in that trust.

Additional data regarding psychological therapists can be found on the NHS Digital website, who publish improving access to psychological therapies data sets:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-sets/improving-access-to-psychological-therapies-data-set>

2. DHSC does not hold the information. This is because this information is not collected centrally as there is currently no access and waiting time standard for this activity.
3. DHSC does not hold the information. This is because the requested data is not broken down to this granularity.

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 this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO 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,

Le-Anne Frankson
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