

FOI REF: 22/628

21st November 2022

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1. For each of the financial years from 2016-17 to 2021-22 and for 2022-23 to the latest completed month (likely end of October 2022), please outline how many mental health patients* have had waits in emergency departments, from decision to admit to admission, discharge, or transfer of a) between 12 and 24 hours b) 24 to 48 hours c) 48 to 72 hours d) 72 hours or more?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not centrally record the information requested above prior to December 2020. To enable the Trust to provide this information would require a manual review of patients' notes. We are therefore applying Section 12(1) to this part of your request.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

However, please see the table below for the information requested, broken down by financial year, from December 2020.

Financial Year	Waiting Time				Grand Total
	12-24 hrs	24-48 hrs	48-72 hrs	72hrs or more	
2020/21	25	10			35
2021/22	122	35	10	2	169
2022/23	92	39	14	6	151
Grand Total	239	84	24	8	355

Please note the ICD codes are not used on the Emergency Department System so the data are for any Mental Health issues and not for the specific ICD codes F01-99.

2. **For each financial year, please provide the length of wait for all occurrences of individual waits lasting 72 hours or more.**

Financial Year	Waiting Time (hrs mins)	Waiting Time (mins)
2021/22	102 hrs 3 mins	6123
2021/22	84 hrs 2 mins	5042
2022/23	79 hrs 49 mins	4789
2022/23	75 hrs 50 mins	4550
2022/23	74 hrs 59 mins	4499
2022/23	78 hrs 20 mins	4700
2022/23	162 hrs 18 mins	9738
2022/23	72 hrs 18 mins	4338

Please note that Section 12(1) has been applied to information prior to December 2020, as per question 1.

3. **Please provide a list of occasions (with patient identifying details redacted) where the trust has contacted a partnering mental health trust, CCG, ICS, NHS England or other statutory body to notify that there were no mental health beds available within a) the ICS area b) the NHS region c) England, Scotland or Wales.**

Please contact Sussex Partnership NHS Trust for this information, via the following email address:

foi@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

4. **As per the national Core 24 target, does your trust have an emergency mental health liaison team/liaison psychiatry team available to patients attending emergency departments?***

Mental Health liaison teams are available on site, provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Trust.

5. **If yes, please provide a breakdown of staff employed in these roles by role, band and whether they are full-time equivalent or other.****

This service is provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Trust. Please contact them via the following email address for this information:

foi@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

6. **If yes, please provide details as regards the hours the team are available to patients and typical staffing levels during those hours.****

Please contact Sussex Partnership NHS Trust for this information, contact details as above.

***ICD codes: F01-99**

****If these staff are employed/managed by another organisation please provide any details available to the trust.**

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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