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Our reference: FOI DA3037

I am responding to your request for information received 28th February 2019. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Merlene Shillingford
FOI & Information Governance Officer

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision. If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Tel: 01625 545700
Web: www.informationcommissioner.org.uk

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Request:

Hello

I would like to request the following information:

Question 1:

How many psychotherapists and counsellors have been employed by the Trust since 2012-present? Can these numbers be provided by year?

Answer:

Year	Staff Count
18.03.2019	217
31.03.2018	161
31.03.2017	175
31.03.2016	152
31.03.2015	111
31.03.2014	108
31.03.2013	107
31.03.2012	91

Question 2:

How many third-party psychotherapists and counsellors (or psychotherapy and counselling services) are not directly employed by the Trust, but treat the trust's patients through referrals, since 2012? Can these numbers be given by year?

Answer:

The Trust does not employ third party psychotherapists and counsellors to treat Trust patients. Please see response to question 4 for governance assurance regarding referrals to other agencies.

Question 3:

Could you please provide information on what standards the Trust requires candidates to meet, in order to be employed with the job title psychotherapist or counsellor. Is there a policy on what training or accreditation is necessary, in order to apply for these job roles within the Trust?

Answer:

Criterion A

A Core profession **and one of:**

Membership of the HCPC as an Arts Therapist **or**

Membership of the HCPC as a psychologist with a protected title at practitioner Doctoral level (or the grand-parented equivalent) and eligible for Chartered status with the British Psychological Society.

Membership of a body recognised by the PSA and relevant to the standards of practice expected by the Trust for psychological therapy **or**

Accredited member of the BABCP or Provisional Accreditation if In Training

Criterion B

Evidence of KSA criteria equivalent to a core professional qualification **and one of:** membership of a body recognised by the PSA and relevant to the standards of practice expected by the Trust for psychological therapy **or**

Accredited member of the BABCP or Provisional Accreditation with the BABCP if In Training.

Question 4:

Could you please provide any information as to whether any policy or background check process for hiring psychotherapists and counsellors is also applied to third party care providers who the Trust might refer patients to.

Answer:

Referrals to other agencies are normally to other NHS entities or to bodies with which we have a contract including standards of care and delivery.