

**Information Governance**

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Our reference: FOI DA3367**

I am responding to your request for information received 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. 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,

Ayomide Adediran  
Information Governance Coordinator

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: 0303 123 1113  
Web: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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**Request:**

**Question 1. How many referrals to outpatient adult mental health services were received in 2019 (Jan 1st to Dec 31st) inclusive compared with 2018?**

**Question 2. How many of these referrals were rejected/deemed inappropriate in 2019 compared to 2018?**

**Answer:** Please see table below for questions 1 and 2.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of referrals received</b>	<b>Number of referrals rejected</b>
<b>2018</b>	78,577	6,530
<b>2019</b>	86,796	7,873

**Question 3. Were eligibility criteria applied to the referral in 2019? And if so did they include:**

**The existence of a co-morbidity which excluded support from the service (e.g. substance mis-use)**

**The condition was not serious enough to meet the threshold for eligibility**

**The duration of the illness was not long enough**

**No diagnosable mental health condition found, hence unsuitable for the service**

**The service lacked the capacity to support the patient**

**Answer:** An eligibility criteria is applied. Secondary Mental Health services offer support to people with significant mental health need; those with less significant need may be signposted to support in primary care including Improved Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT).

The existence of a co-morbid condition is not used to exclude, but depending on the individual need, someone may be referred on to a specialist service. Duration is not used as an exclusion criteria, but if a person is referred and found to have no significant mental health need, then a discharge or referral to another service will be considered. No one was declined because the service lacked capacity to support the patient.

**Question 4. If eligibility criteria were applied to the referrals, did the criteria become stricter in 2019 compared to 2018?**

**Answer:** No, the criteria did not change.

**Question 5. Were any patients rejected because the service lacked the capacity to support the patient in 2019 or in 2018?**

**Answer:** No, patients were not rejected because the service lacked capacity to support the patient in 2018 and 2019.