

Information Governance

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1 February 2023

Our reference: FOI DA4511

I am responding to your request for information received 22nd December 2022. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. 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,



Shuchi Joshi
Senior Information Governance Coordinator – Information Rights

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

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: Description of the information requested: Information relating to perinatal mental health including information on 6-8 week mental health checks for new mothers.

Question 1: In line with the [requirement brought in in April 2020](#) for GPs to offer a postnatal check six- to eight-weeks after birth (live and stillbirth) which focuses on the mother's mental health and general wellbeing, please provide the information below:

A – How many women in your ICS area have given birth or had a stillbirth each year for the last three full financial years?

- 2019/20
- 2020/21
- 2021/22

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1a of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is not an ICS. It is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide the services described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

B – How many women in your ICS area have been offered the six- to eight-week postnatal check with a GP each year for the last three full financial years?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1b of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not hold the information as requested and are therefore unable to provide a response.

C – How many women in your ICS area have attended the six- to eight-week postnatal check with a GP each year for the last three full financial years?

Answer: Please see table below:

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
6-8 week template completed	307	69	270

Please note, these figures relate to GP services provided by ELFT and not for all GP practices in ELFT's ICS area.



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- Question 2:** In your ICS area,
A – Is there specific guidance given to GPs outlining how to ask about women’s mental health and general wellbeing at the six- to eight-week postnatal check? For example, carrying out a mental health assessment or using open-ended questions.
B – If you answered yes to question 2A, please provide a link or a copy of the guidance.
C – Please provide information about how you track compliance with the requirement that GPs ask all women about their mental health and general wellbeing at the six- to eight-week postnatal check.

Answer: Please see below:

BLMK <https://medicines.bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Perinatal-Mental-Health-Prescribing-Resource-may-update-contact-details-.pdf>

NEL

https://www.northeastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/downloads/events/NEL_Expanded_Perinatal_Services_Launch_27.03.19.pdf

- Question 3:** Please provide figures for the total number of referrals to psychological therapy services, including IAPT and other national equivalents, following the six- to eight-week postnatal check with GP practices in your ICS area for the last three full financial years.
- 2019/20
 - 2020/21
 - 2021/22

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not record whether IAPT referrals are related to the GP check.

In order for the Trust to provide this information it would have to access patient records. We do not have a legal basis to access patient records in order to respond to a Freedom of Information Request. Therefore we are unable to provide a response.

- Question 4:** Please provide the following information for those who were referred to psychological therapy services (including IAPT and other national equivalents) following the six- to eight-week postnatal appointment with the GP, for the last three full financial years:
- How many women in your ICS area have been assessed within two weeks of referral?
 - How many women in your ICS area have not been assessed within two weeks of referral?
 - How many women in your ICS area have started treatment within four weeks of assessment?
 - How many women in your ICS area did not start treatment within four weeks of assessment?



Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not record whether IAPT referrals are related to the GP check.

In order for the Trust to provide this information it would have to access patient records. We do not have a legal basis to access patient records in order to respond to a Freedom of Information Request. Therefore we are unable to provide a response.



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