

Freedom of Information request 719-22

Request

Please could you provide me with the following information for your area:

1. The proportion of referrals to the mental health services deemed inappropriate or rejected in the 2019/2020 financial year and the 2020/2021 financial year
2. The reasons for referrals to the mental health services being rejected in these years
3. The median and maximum waiting times between initial assessment and the start of treatment in these years

Clarification

I note from the subject line of your email, that this is a "CAMHS FOI" however the questions asked do not mention CAMHS. Do you require the requested information for:

Children and Adolescents only or all ages

Response: Children and adolescents only please

Response

1. The proportion of referrals to the Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS) deemed inappropriate or rejected is:

	All Referrals	Accepted Referrals	Rejected Referrals	%age Rejected Referrals
2019/2020	703	508	195	28%
2020/2021	502	340	162	32%

2. Due to the recording limitations on the patient management system EMIS, all rejected referrals are recorded with the rejection reason 'Inappropriate Referral'. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of 357 patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

3. The median and maximum waiting times between initial assessment and the start of treatment is:

	Number of Treatment Starts	Median (days)	Longest Wait (days)
2019/2020	417	0	88
2020/2021	187	0	98

Please note: Usually patients will have an assessment and begin treatment within the same appointment, therefore the median wait is 0 days. There are a small number of exceptions, for example if a patient required a face-to-face appointment, which were paused during the height of the covid-19 pandemic lockdowns.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **719-22** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.