

# Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

## Reference

23-24189

## Date response sent

29/08/23

## Subject

GIC: Waiting List and First Appointment Timescales,

## Details of enquiry

The below questions pertain to gender identity services at your trust for adult patients.

1. How many patients are currently on your waiting list for gender identity care?
2. If I were referred today (10/08/2023) how long would I wait to be seen for a first appointment? This figure should be given in months - *for clarity we are referring to a first appointment with a psychiatrist or endocrinologist.*
3. If I were referred today (10/08/2023) how long would I typically wait for treatment to start? This figure should be given in months - *for clarity we are referring to any form of treatment ranging from hormone therapy or surgery.*
4. On your current schedule of first appointments, what year and month were those patients referred to your service? *For example, the current cohort of first appointment patient were referred in Oct 2018.*
5. How many staff currently work for you service? Please can this be broken down by discipline/job role. *E.g. 2 x administration, 2 x endocrinologists, etc.*

## Response sent

1. How many patients are currently on your waiting list for gender identity care?  
This data is publicly available on our website at <https://gic.nhs.uk/appointments/waiting-times/>.
2. If I were referred today (10/08/2023) how long would I wait to be seen for a first appointment? This figure should be given in months - *for clarity we are referring to a first appointment with a psychiatrist or endocrinologist.*  
Given that waiting times for those being seen for a first appointment now, are on average in excess of 4 years, (see [Waiting times - Gender Identity Clinic – GIC](#) for the latest available data), the Trust cannot state with any certainty how those referred today may be impacted by service reconfigurations, (where some patients transferred to the waiting list of Pilot Clinics, set up in Greater Manchester, London and Merseyside)- and may also be impacted by new pathways being developed elsewhere.  
The Trust does not believe that calculations based on past performance, which we produce and share, would accurately represent the length of time you would actually wait, if you were referred today,. This is because the building blocks for accurately predict future waiting times are variable and constantly changing, as explained above. On this basis the Trust cannot generate new information which would be

speculative and potentially misleading by varying degrees. Furthermore, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) only applies to recorded information that exists and is held at the time of the request. It does not require an authority to create or speculate about new information, and your questions 2-3 could only be answered by creating new speculative information, which would give rise to new information, not constitute data held and therefore not be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**Please refer to [21-22032\(1-3\) GIC GIDS Current Wait to 1st Appt & Treatment R3](#) as our responses ( sent between June 2021 to June 2022) to your questions and the subsequent ICO investigation still apply to this question.**

3. If I were referred today (10/08/2023) how long would I typically wait for treatment to start? This figure should be given in months - *for clarity we are referring to any form of treatment ranging from hormone therapy or surgery.*

We cannot accurately predict the date or period your first GIC appointment, if referred today, as this would depend upon variable parameters, as indicated in Q2 above.

Any treatment deemed appropriate for you could only start after a full assessment had been completed.

Whilst a patient's first appointment would always be for an assessment, the assessment cannot always be concluded in one appointment, and many GIC patients' assessments extend over 4 appointments or more, whilst the patient is being assessed by the same or clinicians before assessment is completed and the patient referred for treatment.

In summary therefore, treatment cannot start until the patient has been fully assessed, which may be several appointments at varying intervals. The start of treatment would depend on the type of treatment prescribed and the availability of those appointments.

**Please refer to [21-22032\(1-3\) GIC GIDS Current Wait to 1st Appt & Treatment R3](#) as our responses (sent between June-August 2022) to your questions and the subsequent ICO investigation still apply to this question.**

4. On your current schedule of first appointments, what year and month were those patients referred to your service? *For example, the current cohort of first appointment patient were referred in Oct 2018.* This data is publicly available on our website at <https://gic.nhs.uk/appointments/waiting-times/>.

5. How many staff currently work for you service? Please can this be broken down by discipline/job role.

<b>Gender Identity Clinic Discipline/Job Roles</b> (as at 17/08/23)	<b>WTE Count</b> (whole time equivalent)
<b>Psychology Counsellors</b>	<b>6.4 WTE</b>
<b>Speech &amp; Language Therapists</b>	<b>4.6 WTE</b>

<b>Gender Identity Clinic Discipline/Job Roles</b> (as at 17/08/23)	<b>WTE Count</b> (whole time equivalent)
<b>Endocrinology:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants/Doctors      2.6 WTE</li> <li>• Nurses                              3.0 WTE</li> </ul>	<b>5.6 WTE</b>
<b>Clinical Core</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatrists/Doctors</li> </ul>	<b>6.2 WTE</b>
<b>Administration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin Managers              3.5 WTE</li> <li>• Administrators                16 WTE</li> </ul>	<b>19.5 WTE</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.3 WTE</b>