

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

18-19063

Date sent

12/06/2018

Subject

Use of Puberty Blockers

Details of enquiry

We noted the data provided by Prof Gary Butler to the Mail on Sunday last year:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4743036/800-children-young-10-puberty-blockers.html>

We would like to request a more detailed breakdown of the figures. Specifically:

- a) The number of children (aged 17 and under) prescribed with puberty blocking drugs at the Tavistock London and Leeds (combined) for the following timeframes:
Financial Year 2017/2018 (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)
Financial Year 2016/2017 (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017)
Financial Year 2015/2016 (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016)
Financial Year 2014/2015 (1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)
Financial Year 2013/2014 (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014)
- b) A breakdown of the age of the children prescribed with puberty blocking drugs at the Tavistock London and Leeds in Financial Year 2017/2018. Please provide the data in the following table or similar:

Age	Number of children prescribed puberty blocking drugs in the Financial Year 2017/2018 (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)
0	
1	
2	

If the numbers in the above table are small enough to raise concerns about patient confidentiality then please provide data for wider age ranges (i.e. 0-5, 6-10 etc).

Response Sent

In accordance with Section 3 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide you with the data you have requested under Freedom of Information regulations.

Information about who has been referred from the Tavistock and Portman GIDS team to our associated endocrine clinics is held in individual patient files. Once young people are with the GIDS endocrinology teams there are different pathways; for example more time might be taken before physical interventions due to medical reasons or because the young person wishes to discuss options around fertility preservation before starting treatment.

Information about the prescribing of physical interventions, including puberty blockers, is held by the GIDS teams at University College London Hospital and the Leeds General Infirmary, to whom the Tavistock and Portman GIDS team subcontract all endocrinology functions – the collated information is not held here at the Tavistock and Portman.

Further assistance might be available to you by addressing your enquiry directly to the FOI departments of both of these public organisations via foi@uclh.nhs.uk and/or Leedsth-tr.informationgovernance@nhs.net – they would have to assess whether the information can be extracted from their systems within the bounds of the FOI act.