

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

18-19395

Date sent

27/03/2019

Subject

Recruitment/Employment of Psychotherapists/Counsellors 2012 to Present

Details of enquiry

- 1) How many psychotherapists and counsellors have been employed by the Trust since 2012-present? Can these numbers be provided by year?
- 2) How many third-party psychotherapists and counsellors (or psychotherapy and counselling services) are not directly employed by the Trust, but treat the trust's patients through referrals, since 2012? Can these numbers be given by year.
- 3) Could you please provide information on what standards the Trust requires candidates to meet, in order to be employed with the job title psychotherapist or counsellor. Is there a policy on what training or accreditation is necessary, in order to apply for these job roles within the Trust?
- 4) Could you please provide any information as to whether any policy or background check process for hiring psychotherapists and counsellors is also applied to third party care providers who the Trust might refer patients to.

Response Sent

- 1) How many psychotherapists and counsellors have been employed by the Trust since 2012-present? Can these numbers be provided by year?
[The Trust's workforce information, prior to March 2019, was extremely unclear and as a result we cannot provide information for this entire period. To fulfil the request it would require the Trust to undertake at least 35 hours of work to identify, extract and cleanse the information which would exceed the resources provisioned under the FOI Act 2000.](#)
[The Trust can confirm that it employs 161 psychotherapists as at March 2019.](#)
- 2) How many third-party psychotherapists and counsellors (or psychotherapy and counselling services) are not directly employed by the Trust, but treat the trust's patients through referrals, since 2012? Can these numbers be given by year.
[The Trust engages honorary contract holders, but these records are maintained through a manual system. To fulfil this request it would take around 25 hours worth of work to inspect all the manual records and identify, extract and cleanse the information ,which would exceed the resources provisioned under the FOI Act 2000.](#)

- 3) Could you please provide information on what standards the Trust requires candidates to meet, in order to be employed with the job title psychotherapist or counsellor. Is there a policy on what training or accreditation is necessary, in order to apply for these job roles within the Trust?

The Trust has job descriptions and person specifications for a range of roles with these job titles. Their content will range based on the seniority of the role and to obtain this information, manually, from HR files has been estimated take more than 40 hours to complete, which would exceed the resources provisioned within the FOI Act.

- 4) Could you please provide any information as to whether any policy or background check process for hiring psychotherapists and counsellors is also applied to third party care providers who the Trust might refer patients to.

For any individual appointed in this capacity are subject to the NHS Employer Check standard which the Trust applies. Details of these standards are obtainable from NHS Employers www.nhsemployers.org