

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

19-20192

Date sent

30/09/2019

Subject

GIDS Update on (Closed) FOI Case 16-17254 Interventions & Treatments Cessations

Details of enquiry

1. In its FOI response 16-17254 dated 12 December 2016 the Trust stated: "We are currently setting up a database that will collect data of young people that have chosen to cease physical interventions / de-transition." Now some two and a half years later, could the Trust please offer an update on its database?
 - i. In your answer, would you kindly provide:
 - a) a summary of its findings, if it has been set up;
 - b) an estimate of when it will start providing findings that would be capable of being shared via FOI, if it has not been set up yet.
 - c) Even in the absence of the database, could you kindly state how many patients 'have chosen to cease physical interventions' and over what time period (eg between years x and y, z patients chose to cease physical interventions);
 - d) And of these [above], how many desisted at the first stage, of puberty blockade, rather than at the second stage, of cross-sex hormones?.

Response Sent

1. In its FOI response 16-17254 dated 12 December 2016 the Trust stated: "We are currently setting up a database that will collect data of young people that have chosen to cease physical interventions / de-transition." Now some two and a half years later, could the Trust please offer an update on its database?

No such database has been set up. While information is recorded in patient notes on the choices people make with regards to physical intervention, this is not done in a collatable format.

 - a. In your answer, would you kindly provide:
 - i. a summary of its findings, if it has been set up;
Not applicable, see above response
 - ii. an estimate of when it will start providing findings that would be capable of being shared via FOI, if it has not been set up yet.
There are currently no plans in place to set up such a database, owing to the complexity and multiplicity of the choices young people make.
 - iii. Even in the absence of the database, could you kindly state how many patients 'have chosen to cease physical interventions' and over what time period (eg between years x and y, z patients chose to cease physical interventions);

Anecdotally, we can confirm that young people can and do come off hormone blocking treatment. They may do so for a number of reasons including:

- no longer wishing to pursue a physical pathway either because of a change in how they identify or a change in how they wish to express their identity
- seeking fertility preservation treatment

Young people sometimes resume these treatments at a later date.

- iv. And of these [above], how many desisted at the first stage, of puberty blockade, rather than at the second stage, of cross-sex hormones?.

We have had a very small number of cases where young people have stopped hormone treatment. These are rare instances. They are not necessarily an indication of the young person no longer identifying as trans. It is not the case that these patients necessarily regret earlier choices or can be described as 'desisters'. The entire premise of our service model and the thorough exploration work we do with young people means that any decision about physical intervention is arrived at after a great deal of consideration of their feelings and options and when all parties agree this is the best course of action, the patient, their family and the clinical team.