

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

19-20366

Date sent

12/03/2020

Subject

Under 18s Referrals for Hormone Blockers Administration

Details of enquiry

How many children (18 years old and under) have been referred from the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust to NHS bodies which are responsible for administering puberty hormone blockers (including, but not exclusive to, endocrine clinics and primary care providers) in each respective year from 2009 to 2019 inclusive?

Response Sent

There are a number of arrangements for the prescription and administration of the blockers, which are most often administered locally. The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust does not prescribe puberty blockers or any other medication linked to the treatment of young people presenting to GIDS – this is the domain of endocrinologists who are employed by other NHS Trusts. Although arrangements can vary, where puberty blockers are appropriate, one common pathway is for endocrinologists to contact the young person's GP with a recommendation to prescribe, which is then administered locally. Information about each young person's pathway is stored in their patient file.

We confirm that this information is held by the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, but that the cost of collating the data would exceed the appropriate limit that is provided within the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust is therefore not obliged to respond to this question and so will not be processing it further. Please see below for more information about the costing of answering your request.

- The data is held within individual patient files.
- We cannot automate its collation, as the patient records system we use does not have a dedicated field for this data.
- We estimate that it will take 20 minutes per patient file to identify and extract the data for collation into a report.
- To search the thousands of patient files necessary to supply an answer would therefore take at least 500 hours of staff time.
- Section 12 of the freedom of information act allows a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the

request. The appropriate limit in the NHS is currently £450 or 18 hours of staff work at the standard rate of £25 per hour.