

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

### Reference

21-22146

### Date sent

21/09/21

### Subject

GIC Waiting List, Referrals, Puberty Blockers

### Details of enquiry

I would like to make a freedom of information request detailing:

- 1 - What is the current number of patients on your NHS waiting list awaiting access to GIC treatment?
- 2 - How long is said waiting list? (as in number of years to access treatment - wait time from referral by GP to first appointment at GIC would be an acceptable metric)
- 3 - What is the annual number of referrals you receive? (whatever is the most recent year - if 2020 is unavailable then 2019 or before. If year on year data is available I would very much appreciate this too)
- 4 - What number or percent of your patients start on "puberty blocker" medication and of those what percent continue to hormones?
- 5 - How much time does a referred patient spend under your care? (for example the average number of weeks they attend services up until they are discharged back to community services)

### Response sent

Thank you for your request for information below, which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below our response:

- 1 - What is the current number of patients on your NHS waiting list awaiting access to GIC treatment?  
As at end August 2021 the GIC waiting list was 9875.

2 - How long is said waiting list? (as in number of years to access treatment - wait time from referral by GP to first appointment at GIC would be an acceptable metric).

We do not hold data on predicted wait times for people who join the GIC waiting list today. As at 1 September 2021 the GIC was seeing patients who joined the waiting list in May 2017, however, patients who transfer from GIDS are slotted into the GIC waiting list as they are already on the pathway. You can find details of GIDS referrals on our GIDS website at <https://gids.nhs.uk/number-referrals>

3 - What is the annual number of referrals you receive? (whatever is the most recent year - if 2020 is unavailable then 2019 or before. If year on year data is available I would very much appreciate this too).

Our data is held in financial years. Please see below data from 1 April 2017, which was when the GIC transferred from the West London NHS Mental Health Trust to the Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

2017-18	3038
2108-19	3627
2019-20	3403
2020-21	2980
2021-22 to date	1239

4 - What number or percent of your patients start on "puberty blocker" medication and of those what percent continue to hormones?

The London GIC does not directly prescribe hormone therapy. Our patients are prescribed hormone medications by their GP, their endocrinologist or another qualified medical practitioner. Patients do not commence on puberty blockers once they have become a GIC patient. Patients who start on puberty blockers do so whilst under the care of GIDS.

5 - How much time does a referred patient spend under your care? (for example the average number of weeks they attend services up until they are discharged back to community services).

We do not hold data to answer this question.

Not all referrals are accepted or progress to a first appointment, or completion of treatment. Waiting times for a first appointment vary, which impacts on the time between referral and discharge. You can find data on current waiting times and first appointments on our GID website at <https://gic.nhs.uk/appointments/waiting-times/>

Discharge is not necessarily an end to treatment, with hand over to community services. There are many other reasons for discharge. Some patients are discharged to community services with planned follow up treatment, some transfer to another gender clinic because they are moving home, some patients change their mind, and there are many other reasons for discharge. Treatments are bespoke to the patient, so there is no fixed number of appointments or timescale.