

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/321
Mental Health

Request details

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from you,

- 1. I would like to know, how many people have been referred or self referred to you during this virus pandemic compared with the same timeframe 12 months ago. If possible could you categorise these patients ,to age sex district ,and their diagnosis and treatment**

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

In order to comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance, I would like to advise that the UHB have multiple referral points into mental health services, some of which are fewer than referrals from last year, some the same and some increased. In total during a typical month last year the UHB received approximately 4,500 referrals into mental health, currently the UHB are having approximately 4000 referrals and it is quickly returning to last year's figures with increases seen in primary care. This year the numbers are approximately the same with circa 25% increases seen in referrals into primary care and some reductions into secondary care which has balanced the position out. In general the UHB have seen referrals into:

- 3rd sector – circa 550 referrals per month
- Primary care liaison – 2000 referrals per month
- Primary Care Mental Health Support service and counselling – 800 referrals per month
- CMHTs – 600 referrals per month

- 2. Long waiting lists, for psychiatric and psychological care ,diagnosis and treatment has be known for some time. Were Covid related patients given priority?or are they still awaiting diagnosis and treatment ? If so how many age ,district ,sex, how long have they been waiting, and how long will they be waiting for analysis and treatment.**

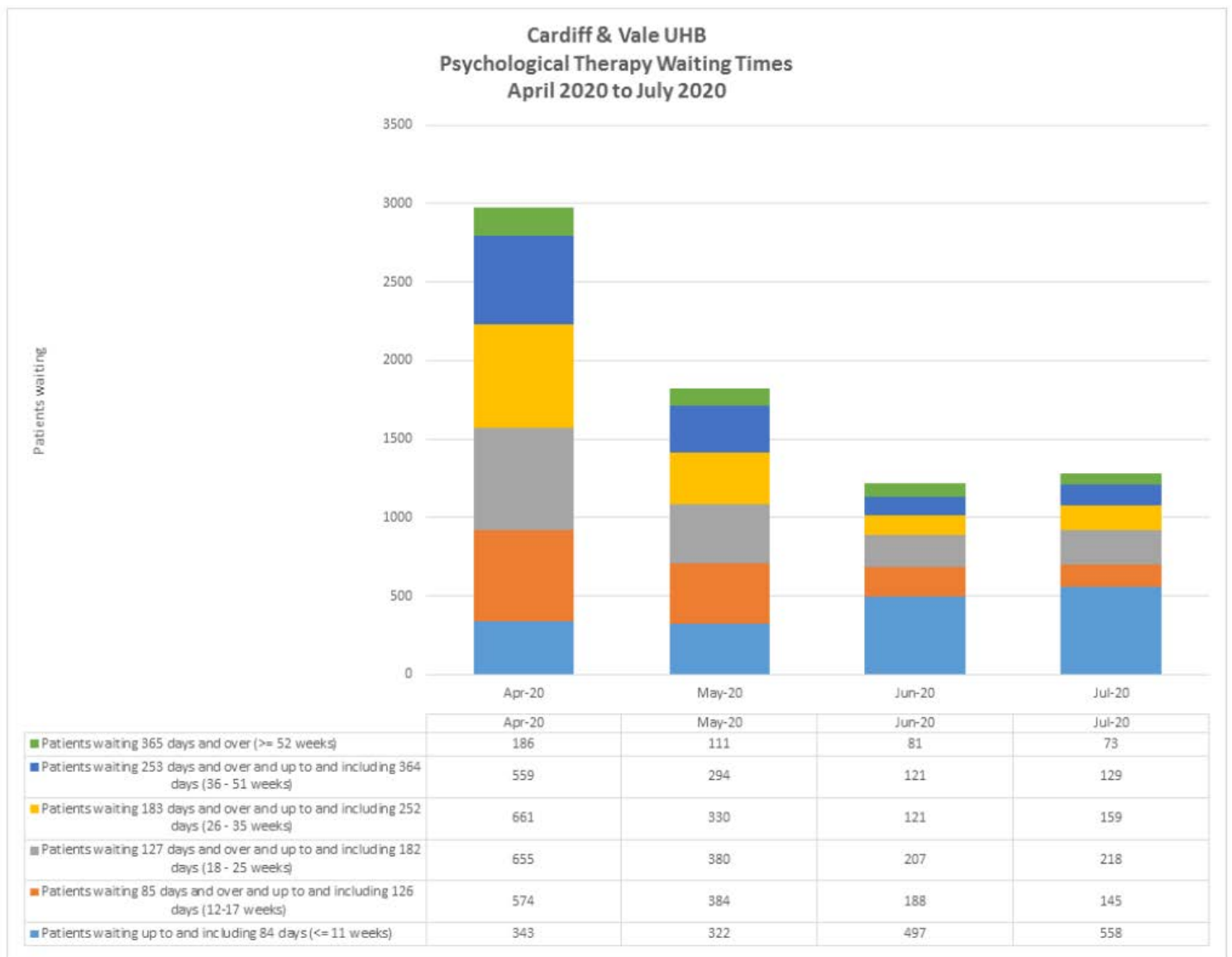
Covid patients were not prioritised over others in mental health services, adult services saw very few numbers in hospital and in community settings people were prioritised on need.

With regards to your request for the data to be broken down by age etc, the UHB can confirm that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

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3. Can I have the latest breakdown of waiting times, age where from etc.

Please see below the most detailed information we have on patient waiting times:



4. I also understand you are employing agency psychologists , and some staff members have a private contract outside their NHS work. Can you give me a breakdown of this and the cost>

The UHB does not employ agency psychologists, the UHB employed temporary counsellors out of current vacancies to work on the waiting lists in primary care for counselling. The UHB have remained in WG targets for our performance in this area.

5. Finally there is a general consensus amongst the various health experts .. which forecasts a huge increases in mental health patients following this pandemic from grief to PTSD to depression etc. What have you prepared, to deal with this increase in both staff levels and counselling and psychological intervention.

The UHB have increased third sector contracts by 25% to deliver covid related support as described. The UHB have seen demand increases in lower tier and primary care services of approximately 22%. There are fewer referrals coming through for counselling so the UHB are managing the current demand within our current resources.