

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/187**  
**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

**Information Requested:**

- 1) How many referrals were made to your CAMHS services from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
- 2) How many (already) diagnosed autistic children/teenagers were referred to your CAMHS services from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
  - a. If possible, could you also please provide the proportion (%) these referrals made up of the total number of referrals each year?
- 3) How many referrals were 'rejected' (i.e. not accepted by CAMHS/referred to another service) from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
  - a. If possible, could you also please provide information on why the referrals were rejected?
- 4) How many referrals of diagnosed autistic children/teenagers were 'rejected' from 2018-2024? Please give individual figures for each year.
  - a. If possible, could you also provide the proportion (%) these rejections made up of the total number of rejections for each year please.

Please could you provide all of this information in calendar years.

*The requestor further specified the following at a later time:*

I should have specified in my initial request - when including data from 2024 please consider data up to the 19th of March (date of submission of the FOI).

I would like to clarify some points because it wasn't specified in my original request... I am requesting information pertaining to...

- NHS referrals
- Referrals to specialist (tier 3) CAHMS

Re 'rejections' of referrals – that should include 'rejections' that took place either before an individual was ever assessed by CAMHS or immediately after an assessment took place.

I also want to clarify, because it is not clear in my original request... please respond with data pertaining to individual referrals not individual people i.e. if one person was referred more than once then please count the total number of referrals. I have realised the wording of question 2 asks for data on the number of diagnosed autistic children/teenagers when really it should ask for data on the number of referrals involving diagnosed autistic/teenagers.

When including data from 2024 please consider data up to the 19<sup>th</sup> of March (date of submission of the FOI).

And to clarify by 'already diagnosed' I mean children/teenagers who came to CAMHS with an existing autism diagnosis i.e. they weren't being referred for the purpose of an autism diagnosis.

### Response Details:

- 1) Please see the below figures for the number of referrals made to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's (the UHB's) CAMHS from January 2018 to March 2024.
  - 2018 – The service was managed by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, so this data is not available.
  - 2019 – 3,339 referrals.
  - 2020 – 3,029 referrals.
  - 2021 – 3,841 referrals.
  - 2022 – 3,714 referrals.
  - 2023 – 4,105 referrals.
  - 2024 (January to March) – 937 referrals.

- 2) In completing a search for the information requested, 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 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') 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.

- 3) Please see the below figures for the number of referrals rejected by the UHB's CAMHS from January 2018 to March 2024.
  - 2018 – The service was managed by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, so this data is not available.
  - 2019 – Data not available.
  - 2020 – 852 referrals.
  - 2021 – 1,381 referrals.
  - 2022 – 1,274 referrals.
  - 2023 – 893 referrals.

- 2024 (January to March) – 415 referrals.
  - a. There are various reasons why referrals may be rejected, but most commonly, if a young person's referral is rejected it is because they are not appropriate for our service and their needs may be best met within a different service. Where a referral is declined, we offer individualised signposting advice.
- 4) The UHB believes the section 12 exemption to apply here and is therefore refusing your request.