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22 February 2021

Reference Number: F21-357A

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear

Thank you for your email requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please find the response below as requested.

- 1. Types of services offered for Gaming Disorder;**
 - a. Number and job title of qualified mental health professionals within each service who offer treatment for internet gaming disorder;**
 - b. Number of behavioural addiction specialists within the Trust;**
 - c. Number of child and adolescent specialists who offer treatment for this disorder;**
 - d. Lowest age limit for referral to service.**

We do not currently offer any specific services for either children or adults for problem gaming/video game addiction. Any problems that arise from these would be treated as part of the overall treatment and care plan for the person.

- 2. We would also like to gather specific referral data for any individuals that had been referred for treatment of problem gaming (over the last five years) within the trust as follows:**
 - a. Number of referrals where problem gaming was the primary reason for referral;**
 - b. Age of referrals;**
 - c. Gender of referrals;**
 - d. Type of treatment and/or talking therapies offered;**
 - e. The estimated time spent on a waiting list prior to initial contact;**
 - f. How many attended first appointment;**
 - g. How many never attended;**
 - h. How many completed treatment;**
 - i. With those who completed treatment, how many presented with risk pertaining to their gaming behaviours;**
 - j. How many dropped out of treatment part way through;**
 - k. How many were still in treatment.**

The Trust does not hold this information in a retrievable format. While our system would record 'addiction', it would not record what the focus of the addiction was. In order to determine whether problem gaming was the primary reason for referral, we would need to manually review the medical record of every patient seen for addiction for the past five years. The time it would take to do this would far exceed the appropriate limit as set out by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the FOIA.

Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

12. (1) - Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

If you have any query or concern about the handling of your enquiry then please contact the Trust's Freedom of Information Lead at the address below or you may ask for a formal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you may make an approach to the Information Commissioner.

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Smith
Director of Operations and System Partnerships

