



## Kent and Medway

NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Information Governance & Records Management Department

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Dear [REDACTED]

### Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 35430 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding: -

Perinatal Mental Health

Your request is set out below:

1. The number of patients referred or self-referred to the service and accepted for treatment, broken down by year

Year	Number of referrals where a treatment start date has been recorded
2020	641
2021	666
2022 (up to 22.12.22)	606

2. The number of patients referred or self-referred to the service and rejected, broken down by year.

Year	Number of referrals rejected
2020	301
2021	256
2022 (up to 22.12.22)	295

Please note this table captures all referrals rejected, for reasons including inappropriate (which includes duplicate referrals being received) or incomplete information.

**We are proud to be smoke free**

Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati  
Chief Executive – Helen Greatorex

3. A list of the reasons patients were rejected from the service, by year, broken down by proportion.

Year	Inappropriate - post initial assessment	Inappropriate - post phone screening	Inappropriate Referral	Incomplete Referral Request (incomplete information on Referral Request)
2020	0.33%	1.00%	98.67%	0.00%
2021	2.34%	2.73%	94.92%	0.00%
2022 (up to 22.12.22)	0.00%	0.00%	97.97%	2.03%

Please note the table above shows all referrals rejected, for reasons including inappropriate referrals (this includes duplication) or incomplete information. Discharge reasons and definitions are provided by the Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS) technical specification for referral information. The term “inappropriate” describes those patients who are identified as not having a moderate or severe perinatal mental health need, and therefore do not meet the referral criteria for the Perinatal Mental Health Community Service (PMHCS).

Individuals who have been referred to PMHCS can decline the referral appointment as they do not feel they require this level of support. Where appropriate, individuals who do not require the specialist support of PMHCS are signposted to other support available in the wider NHS or community.

4. The number of appointments per year held by phone, online and in person broken down by type.

Year	Email	Face to Face Contact	Talk type for a person unable to speak	Telephone Contact	Video Consultation
2020	Fewer than 5*	2318	Fewer than 5*	5873	301
2021	Fewer than 5*	5240	Fewer than 5*	3111	722
2022	6	6910	Fewer than 5*	1982	1112

The table above shows all appointments that took place between 01/01/2020 and 22/12/22.

\*Due to the low numbers involved in some areas of this question, we are unable to release the information, in full. We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) FOIA to provide information that is personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance we believe that the figures are significantly low enough that identification of those involved could be made, and would therefore contravene the first Data Protection principle, therefore section 40 (2) is engaged. The terms of this exemption in the freedom of information act mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

5. The average waiting time for a patient between referral and first appointment, broken down by year.

Year	Waiting time between referral and first appointment by calendar days
2020	18
2021	19
2022	30

**The table above shows all appointments where the referral assessment date is between 01/01/2020 and 22/12/22. Decimals have been rounded up to the nearest whole number.**

We aim to see patients as quickly as possible and work around service users' availability when making appointments. There has been a significant investment in perinatal mental health services under the NHS Long Term Plan and, as a result, over the last three years we have supported significantly more people.

I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of  
The Information Governance Department