

10 February 2025

Dear

ATISN 23277 – Mental Health Referrals

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 20 January 2025 relating to mental health referrals. You have requested the following:

- The number of referrals for young people (under 18 years) that were made to Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS) in Wales in the year 2024:
 1. Total number of young people who had to wait over 28 days for an initial assessment
 2. Total number of young people who had to wait over 56 days for an initial assessment

Our Response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds information of this description and it is currently being prepared for publication. It is considered exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. This states (inter alia):

- 1) *Information is exempt information if—*
- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
 - (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
 - (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a)*

I can confirm that the conditions under (a) and (b) are satisfied. Welsh Government does hold information relating to the request, but the performance data relating to October to December 2024 is currently being collated and validated. It will be published on the 26th February 2025 on the Welsh Government website here: [Mental Health \(Wales\) Measure 2010 | GOV.WALES](#).

Under (c), the Welsh Government believes that it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until that time. Publishing the requested information now may not reflect the information that will be published on the website, as the performance data is under review. For that reason, we believe it is reasonable for the publication schedule to remain to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information.

For clarification with regards to the statement about data for all health boards not being available. We can confirm the seven current health boards in Wales have data as shown in the link <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Mental-Health/Mental-Health-Measure/Part-1/referralsforalpmhssassessment-by-lhb-month>

The health board list you refer to, includes two health boards which were in existence prior to April 2019 when a boundary change occurred. As a result, data up to March 2019 includes data relating to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and Cwm Taf University Health Board which then ceased. From April 2019 data then relates to the new organisations Swansea Bay University Health Board and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. Therefore from April 2019 onwards the two organisations which ceased appear as '.' in the StatsWales table which means 'This data item is not applicable'.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,