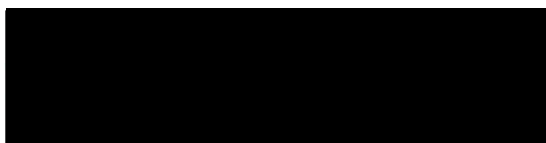


5 October 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – child and adolescent mental health referrals

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) received 18 September 2018, with further clarification of scope received 24 September 2018.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist your understanding. The Waitemata DHB Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Service serves a population of 630,000 and is the largest service of this kind in the country, by volume of service-users seen. Our total mental health services workforce numbers just over 1,260 permanent staff. The speciality comprises Adult Mental Health Services, Child Youth and Family Mental Health Services, Takanga a Fohe (Pacific mental health), Whitiki Maurea (Kāupapa Māori mental health), Community Alcohol and Drug Services (an Auckland regional service) and the Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service (covering Northland and greater Auckland regions).

In answer to your questions, please see the responses provided below.

1. Data on referrals to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) between 2012 and 2018 for people aged 13 to 17, broken down by year and by gender.

Please see Table 1 below.

Table 1: Referrals to CAMHS of 13 to 17 year olds, by year and gender 2012-2018

| Calendar year | Female | Male |
|--------------------|--------|------|
| 2012 | 887 | 613 |
| 2013 | 984 | 605 |
| 2014 | 1078 | 688 |
| 2015 | 1089 | 664 |
| 2016 | 1230 | 736 |
| 2017 | 1349 | 817 |
| 2018 (to 26/09/18) | 1097 | 711 |

2. Data on median wait time and range of wait times for CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) between 2012 and 2018 for people aged 13 to 17, broken down by year and by gender

Please see Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2: Median wait times (in days) of 13 to 17 year olds for CAMHS, by year and gender 2012-2018

| Calendar year | Female | Male |
|--------------------|--------|------|
| 2012 | 13 | 14 |
| 2013 | 8 | 9 |
| 2014 | 7 | 10 |
| 2015 | 9 | 12 |
| 2016 | 10 | 12 |
| 2017 | 13 | 13 |
| 2018 (to 26/09/18) | 11 | 10 |

Table 3: Range of wait times by three categories of 13 to 17 year olds for CAMHS, by year and gender 2012-2018

| Calendar year | Less than 3 weeks | | 3 to 8 weeks | | More than 8 weeks | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|--------------|------|-------------------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2012 | 379 | 247 | 128 | 103 | 2 | 3 |
| 2013 | 558 | 353 | 76 | 47 | 1 | 2 |
| 2014 | 583 | 317 | 127 | 115 | 9 | 9 |
| 2015 | 496 | 279 | 139 | 93 | 31 | 21 |
| 2016 | 498 | 292 | 144 | 116 | 26 | 17 |
| 2017 | 530 | 327 | 170 | 112 | 2 | 5 |
| 2018 (to 26/09/18) | 476 | 299 | 87 | 68 | 2 | 2 |

3. Data how many people aged 13 to 17 referred to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) between 2012 and 2018 were accepted, how many were rejected and how many were referred on, broken down by year and gender.

We are not able to provide information on how 13 to 17 year olds were “referred on” as Waitemata DHB does not collect this data. To collate this information we would need to review all of the individual health records concerned.

We have considered whether charging for the time required to collate this information would assist us to manage this request and have formed the view that it would not as it would require clinical staff with a mental health background who are experienced in using our records system to review the patient files. This would, in turn, impact our ability to meet the needs of our patients. If you are dissatisfied with any of these decisions, you are entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman, whose details are available via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Table 4: Accepted and rejected referrals of 13 to 17 year olds for CAMHS, by year and gender

| Calendar year | Accepted Referrals | | Rejected Referrals | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 2012 | 752 | 487 | 115 | 113 |
| 2013 | 903 | 551 | 72 | 46 |
| 2014 | 1030 | 639 | 18 | 29 |
| 2015 | 1041 | 609 | 33 | 35 |
| 2016 | 932 | 552 | 63 | 53 |
| 2017 | 1031 | 646 | 134 | 83 |
| 2018 (to 26/09/18) | 942 | 610 | 117 | 79 |

Please see Table 4 (above) for data about accepted and rejected referrals.

Rejected referrals are referrals that do not meet criteria, client does not want the service (patient decline) or is out of area (referral is transferred to correct service area). These referrals are returned to referrer or referred to primary health provider or referred/ transferred to a different DHB team (e.g. Regional eating disorder service, paediatrics).

4. Data how many people aged 13 to 17 were hospitalised (admitted to ED) due to self-harm or attempted suicide between 2012 and 2018, broken down by year and by gender.

Please see Table 5 below

Table 5: Number of admissions to Waitemata DHB ED of 13 to 17 year olds, by year and gender

| Calendar year | Female | Male |
|--------------------|--------|------|
| 2012 | 100 | 19 |
| 2013 | 88 | 16 |
| 2014 | 108 | 23 |
| 2015 | 109 | 21 |
| 2016 | 120 | 24 |
| 2017 | 129 | 26 |
| 2018 (to 26/09/18) | 97 | 17 |

Notes:

These 13 to 17 year olds may not have been under the care of CAMHS

Diagnosis codes included: self-harm or attempted suicide

Note: the numbers reflect the total number of presentations to ED

Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Dr Susanna Galea-Singer
Director, Specialist Mental Health & Addiction Services
Waitemata District Health Board