

**Information Governance**

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5 March 2019  
Reference no.18190425

Dear

**Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act**

Thank you for your email of 16 February making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information and the Trust is able to provide the information below in response:

**Request:**

The prevalence of internet gaming disorder (i.e., video game addiction) in the UK is unknown at this point. Over the past year, the issue has garnered increasing publicity following the World Health Organization's official recognition of gaming addiction as a mental health condition in June 2018, enabling access to NHS treatments for those in the UK. As journalists in this field, we would like to gather information about the scale of the problem and current treatment provisions in the area of internet gaming addiction.

1. We would like to request the following information about the facilities and capacity to deal with internet gaming/video game addiction:
  - a) Types of services offered for problem gaming/video game addiction;
  - b) Number and job title of qualified mental health professionals within each service who offer treatment for internet gaming disorder;
  - c) Number of behavioural addiction specialists within the Trust;
  - d) Number of child and adolescent specialists who offer treatment for this disorder;
  - e) Lowest age limit for referral to service.
2. If you currently do not offer specific services for problem gaming/video game addiction, do you plan to in the future?

3. We would also like to gather specific referral data for any individuals that had been referred for treatment of problem gaming for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (year to date), including the following information:

- 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;

If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs.

Response:

The Trust do not provide such services and hold no information in relation to your request as result.

If you are concerned with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will ensure the decision is reviewed. The Trust will consider undertaking a review if requested to do so within 40 working days of the date the response is received by the applicant, and will apply discretion if a longer period of time has passed.

Should you wish to make a complaint as a result of the outcome of such a review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust for Fol Act matters.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Please contact me if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mark Underwood

Head of Information Governance