

**Corporate Services and
Governance**

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Corporate HQ
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1055 Great Western Road
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Maggie Mellon

SENT BY EMAIL TO:
Maggie.Mellon@outlook.com

Date
Your Ref
Our Ref
Email

5 February 2023
FOI 20107
foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Ms Mellon

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

Thank you for your request received on 2 January 2023 for the provision of the following information:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information about referrals to the YP Gender Service at the Sandyford Clinic in the period from January 2020 to December 2023.

- 1. The number and ages of all referrals made to the Young Peoples Gender Service at Sandyford Clinic?**
- 2. The number and ages of children of referrals made by GP's?**
- 3. The number and ages of children were made by Social Workers?**
- 4. The number and ages of children who were self-referrals?**
- 5. The number and ages of children made by CAMHS?**
- 6. The number and ages of children made by schools?**

We are treating your request under our procedures for responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Our response to your request is as follows:

I apologise that this response has been provided to you outside the statutory timescale of 20 working days as set out in FOISA. We aim to respond to all requests promptly and within timescales but unfortunately this is not always possible. I am sorry for the delay and any inconvenience this has caused.

NHSGGC can confirm that this is for referrals only and some of these patients would be vetted and not deemed suitable for the service. Also we would never see a young person unless they have begun puberty. Regarding referrals we can only show GP referrals and self-referrals. The others are a combination of CAMHS and other people referring on the patient's behalf.

To further advise and assist under S15 of The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), please note, where there are small numbers, these are presented as <5 to protect patient identification. This is due to the possibility that disclosure of actual figures would pose a risk that an individual or individuals could be identified from that information. This would be contrary to, and would put NHSGGC in breach of, Data Protection principles. In assessing this, we have followed guidelines issued by NHS NSS Information Services Division. A key principle of the guidelines discourages presenting numbers which are less than 5.

We therefore decline to provide the actual figures on the basis that this is personal information. Section 38 of FOISA provides that information is exempt information if it constitutes personal information and that to disclose this information would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The exemptions within FOISA that we have relied upon to withhold this information are section 38(1)(b) read in conjunction with section 38(2)(a)(i) of FOISA. This is an absolute exemption which means that if information is withheld under this exemption, we are not required to consider whether it is in the public interest to withhold it.”

The number and ages of all referrals made to the Young Peoples Gender Service at Sandyford Clinic?

The number and ages of children of referrals made by GP's?

The number and ages of children who were self-referrals?

The number and ages of children made by CAMHS?

NHSGGC can confirm that the document named FOI Request 20107 accompanying this correspondence provides the information requested.

The number and ages of children were made by Social Workers?

The number and ages of children made by schools?

NHSGGC can confirm that this information is not held as any referral to our services would come from appropriately qualified medical professional/care profession. Therefore under Section 17 of FOISA I am advised to inform you that the information you have requested is not held by NHSGGC.

I hope that this is helpful. If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you have a right to request a review of this decision within 40 working days of receiving this response. Your request for review must be in permanent form and should state:

- That you are asking for a review of this decision and
- Why you are unhappy with the response you have received.

If you wish us to carry out a review, please write to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Corporate HQ, JB Russell House, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH or send an email to: foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

If following a review you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to ask for advice, assistance or to make a formal appeal in writing to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the outcome of a review. The Commissioner can be contacted at:

enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

<https://www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal>

or at: Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

If following appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner you still remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you have a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law against the decision of the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Should you require any clarification about this letter or the right to request a review please contact me at the details at the top of the first page of this letter.

Yours sincerely

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER