



Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Atebir gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn y Gymraeg, ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English. Welsh language correspondence will be replied to in Welsh, and this will not lead to a delay.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20th April 2023**

You clarified on 24th February 2023 that you are looking for this information in relation to Adults, Children and Mental Health services.

Please note that different services hold their information in different formats. Some are held in financial year, and some in calendar. We have noted this where applicable.

You asked:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in relation to continuing healthcare assessments in the Swansea Bay University Health Board area:

1. How many NHS continuing healthcare assessments (CHC) have been undertaken in each of the past 5 years?

Mental Health

2018 - <5*
2019 - <5*
2020 - <5*
2021 - <5*
2022 - <5*

Adults

Please note that since the COVID-19 Pandemic, a revised process is in place in assessing triggers for CHC in order to expedite discharge.

Therefore there has been a reduction in full CHC assessments noted the past 3 years.

2018/19 - 215
2019/20 - 250
2020/21 - 124
2021/22 - 125



Children & Young People

Please note that prior to 2020 this information was not held centrally. To obtain this information would involve a manual trawl and search of patient records which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI Act as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act and The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

Therefore, we have provided the information from 2020 onwards.

2020 - 11

2021 - 16

2022 - 19

2. How many reviews of NHS continuing healthcare assessments were requested and how many resulted in a change in eligibility for NHS continuing healthcare in each of the past 5 years?

Mental Health

Please see Q1. No change to eligibility in the last 5 years.

Adults

Please see Q1.

Children & Young People

2020 - 11 reviews all remained eligible

2021 - 16 reviews 14 remained eligible

2022 - 19 reviews 18 remained eligible

3. How long did it take to determine the outcome of reviews of NHS continuing healthcare assessment decisions in each of the past 5 years?

Mental Health

All outcomes took between 2 and 11 working days.

Adults

Immediate for all years.

Children & Young People

2020 – Due to a change in the decision making panel, this information is not held centrally. To obtain this information would involve a manual trawl and search of patient records which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI Act as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act and The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and



Fees) Regulation 2004 provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

2021 – in the majority of cases, a decision was made between 5 days and 8 days.

Less than five cases* were delayed between 6 weeks and 7 months due to a variety of reasons including further information being required and changes to the MDT panel amongst others.

2022 – in the majority cases, a decision was made between 2 days and 21 days. Less than five* cases were delayed between 2 months and 4 months due to a variety of reasons including illness of the patient amongst others.

4. What was the longest time between a review of a NHS continuing healthcare assessment and the date the review was requested, indicating if the case is still ongoing, in each of the past 5 years?

Mental Health

Please see Q3. No ongoing decisions.

Adults

2-4 weeks for all years.

Children & Young People

Please see Q3. No ongoing decisions.

* Where fewer than 5 has been indicated we are unable to provide you with the exact number of patients as due to the low numbers, there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

