

Email: foi.tsdfd@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10867

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

I'm submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Torbay Council Public Health let me know that this falls under Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust's remit, as the local commissioned provider, which is why I'm writing to you directly.

Please could you provide the following for your Trust for each of the last three financial years (2023/24-2025/26):

- 1. The number of individuals identified as drinking at increasing or higher risk levels (e.g. via AUDIT/AUDIT-C screening), or as using illicit drugs or misusing prescription medication at a problematic level, whether or not they went on to access structured treatment.**
- 2. Of those, how many were referred into treatment, broken down by referral source (e.g. self-referral, GP, criminal justice, hospital, other).**
- 3. Of those identified but not referred into treatment, or referred but not engaging, the reasons recorded for this.**
- 4. The average waiting time from referral to the start of treatment.**
- 5. Any digital health, harm-reduction or self-management tools (e.g. apps) commissioned to support drug/alcohol treatment or recovery, and their cost.**

Following an initial assessment, the Trust is unable to provide all the information requested because the work required would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For NHS bodies, this limit is £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time calculated at the statutory rate of £25 per hour.

In particular, the information requested at Questions 1 and 3 is not routinely reported or held in a standardised, readily retrievable format. Although relevant details may be recorded within clinical systems, case notes or local records, establishing the number of individuals identified through screening who did not subsequently engage with treatment, and identifying the reasons why individuals were not referred or did not engage, would require staff to identify potentially relevant records and manually review them individually. The records would then need to be collated and checked to produce an accurate response for each of the three financial years requested.

The Trust estimates that these activities would take more than 18 hours and would therefore exceed the £450 limit. Under section 12, the Trust is not obliged to comply with a request where the estimated cost of locating, retrieving and extracting the information would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with section 16 of the Act, the Trust can offer advice and assistance to help refine the request. You may wish to reduce the timeframe and limit the request to information already available through standard National Drug Treatment Monitoring System or local performance reports.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team