

23 May 2023

Psychiatric Inpatient Wards - Parental and family data

This FOI request relates to people admitted to psychiatric inpatient wards who are parents.

By 'inpatient ward' we refer to: any ward that provides primarily psychiatric care, that has provision for overnight use, including locked and unlocked wards; including male, female, and mixed wards; including rehabilitation and forensic wards.

We do not need data relating to wards that are (or were during time period in question) exclusively delivering care to patients with dementia, or exclusively delivering care to older adults, or exclusively delivering care to children and adolescents (CAMHS).

Where possible please provide data on forensic wards separately from other types of ward.

By 'parent', we refer to any individual who has a child/children aged under 18 years (this can include step/foster/adopted/biological children). These parents need not necessarily have current caring responsibility (e.g. their child/children could be in temporary foster care).

We also include as a 'parent' any individual who has any other formal residential caring responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (e.g. where a grandparent has parental responsibility for a grandchild).

We are seeking data covering the period from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2019 inclusive.

Please provide the following data, as far as is reasonably possible:

1. Admissions Data

a. How many individual admissions (for one night or more) were made to each psychiatric inpatient ward in the Trust. This question refers to all patient admissions, not just parents.

If possible, please provide this information disaggregated by ward, and for each ward, please indicate:

- Ward gender type (male/female/mixed)
- Mean age of patients admitted during reporting period

Please see Attachment 1 Admission and Discharges

Where less than 5 is used

We are unable to provide an exact figure where numbers are very low. To provide this level of information would reduce numbers to discoverable limits where the patients could be identifiable.

This is exempt from release under section 40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party, of the FOI Act.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

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b. How many of the patients reported under 1.a. were parents (as defined above)?

If possible, please provide this information disaggregated by ward, and for each ward, please indicate:

- Ward gender type (male/female/mixed)
- Mean age of patients admitted during reporting period

This information was not possible to attain within the timeframe. This information is not centrally held. To undertake this exercise would necessitate a manual interrogation of data which would involve a significant number of hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

2. Parental Status Data Collection

a. What data are routinely collected on parental status when inpatients are admitted or during their care? For example, are any of the following recorded: parenthood status, parental responsibility, children's age, involvement of statutory services, where child currently resides? Is any other related information routinely recorded? –

Family profile and child care involvement is initially recorded on the patient's Treatment and care plan. If FCC are involved it will specify what these details are. These will be updated as information is gathered or if there are any changes.

Please see Attachment 6 - UNOCINI Regional guidance - Understanding the needs of children in NI

3. Trust/ward policies and procedures

a. Please provide copies of Trust policy documents which include reference to the needs of psychiatric inpatients who are parents and their families (e.g. family visit policies).

Attached – child contact policy for Shannon Clinic and AMHIC policy is used for Clare ward. (Shannon Clinic policy is currently in process of being updated.)

Please see Attachments 2 – Child Visiting Policies

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b. Please provide copies of any internal guidelines/SOPs used by wards to manage child visits to wards.

Information is within child visiting policies.

Please see Attachments 2 – Child Visiting Policies

c. Please provide a copy of each inpatient ward induction/welcome pack for inpatients.

Attached – inpatient booklet. Please see Attachment 3

d. Please provide a copy of any written information provided to carers of inpatients.

Attached – scanned copy of carer booklet. Please see Attachments 4 - Carers Advocacy Booklet and Patient - Carer information pack advocacy services

e. Please provide a copy of information provided to the carers of children of inpatients while they are inpatients (e.g. foster carer, grandparent).

Please see Attachment 5 - Responding to the Needs of Children Whose Parents have Mental Health or Substance Misuse Issues

f. Please provide a copy of any information provided to child(ren) of inpatients.

No such materials exist.

For items a-f, please state if no such materials exist.

4. Child visits.

a. During the reporting period, how many parents received at least one visit from their child/ren during their inpatient ward admission?

Shannon – 7

Clare – < 5

Where less than 5 is used – as explained in Qu 1

b. During the reporting period, how many individual visits were made by children to inpatient psychiatric wards?

Not possible within the 18 hrs allocated. As Qu 1b

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5. Family-friendly facilities

a. Please provide a description of any family visit room(s) on each inpatient ward (include details of fixtures and fittings).

Shannon Clinic – Room with separate toilet. There is a TV with built in DVD player. Toy box, changing table and children’s table and chairs available. These were removed due to COVID regulations but can be brought in when needed for visits.

Clare Ward – No family room. (Visiting room not able to be used as family room yet due to external doors being fitted, but plan is that it will be family room once completed)

b. For each family room, state whether it is used solely for the purpose of family visits.

Yes – room is specifically for family visits but can be used for other interviews/visits such as with solicitors, other professionals etc but priority will be made for family visits

c. Please provide a photograph of each family room (a snapshot from a phone is fine).

Please see Attachments 7 - photographs

Please note that where redactions have been made, this information is exempt from release under S40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party

With regards to Individuals signatures, this information is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to personal information relating to a third party. Information of a personal nature is exempt from release where its disclosure would leave individuals open to identity theft and where its disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the GDPR 2018.

Also individual’s names have been redacted. This information is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to personal information relating to a third party. Information of a personal nature is exempt from release where its disclosure where its disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the GDPR 2018.

* Attachments are not included on our disclosure log due to the volume of the material, but these are available upon request