

Our Ref: FOI ID 49118

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NHS South Sefton CCG

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Individual Funding Requests within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/[Response](#):

1. I'd like to know whether or not the CCG has a specialist services panel (or equivalent) in place (see 'further clarification' below).

[We have reviewed the FOI request further and taken into consideration your understanding of a specialist services panel:](#)

- i. In some areas, when a patient is diagnosed with a treatment that requires a specialist service – for example eating disorder outpatient treatment – the patient cannot be referred straight to the service by the doctor
- ii. The doctor must make an application (a referral) to the CCG, where the application/referral will be scrutinised by what is known as a 'specialist services panel'
- iii. The specialist services panel act as a gatekeeper to these services. They can agree, decline or defer the referral.

[Whilst the IFR process does include a review by a multi-disciplinary Panel this is purely to consider evidence of clinical exceptionality with a view to approving funding for either a new or rare treatment or approving funding of treatment for patients who do not meet the criteria.](#)

[Similarly, whilst the funding of specialist services 'referrals' if within a CCG's commissioning responsibility may be considered by an IFR Panel/the IFR Team, this is only with a view to considering whether or not there are clinically exceptional circumstances where a pathway does not exist, or a patient does not meet the criteria specified by an existing pathway; to warrant funding being granted or a service review considered for an identified cohort of patients.](#)

2. I'd like to request, for each of the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, the number of referrals for specialist services that have been made to the CCG; broken down by specialist service; and also broken down by number successful (or agreed), number unsuccessful (or declined), and number deferred, according to the decisions of the panel
3. I'd like to request, for each of the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, the total number of referrals for specialist services that have been made to the CCG broken down by number successful (or agreed), number unsuccessful (or declined), and number deferred ONLY.

However, as we understand your request is asking for information relating to the number of referrals made to specialist service providers, the Individual Funding Team would not hold this information. Although, a specialist service provider may hold this information and may also hold/host a 'specialist services panel' which 'gatekeeps' referrals and makes a decision to accept or decline a patient depending on any criteria that specialist service sets.

For information referrals regarding specialist services would be commissioned by NHS England. You may wish to contact them at england.contactus@nhs.net

Whilst NHS South Sefton CCG have attempted to clarify your request once, if you would find it helpful to discuss the above response further Jan Leonard who is our Director of Commissioning and Redesign can be contacted at jan.leonard@southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk