

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_300_19

You asked:

Please could you provide the following information for the **four tax years between 2015/16 and 2018/19**:

1. Do you fund talking therapies for deaf patients? Please answer, yes or no.
2. How many individual funding requests (IFR) have you received regarding mental health treatment for British Sign Language users and separately, patients who are registered deaf and/or has hearing loss?
 - 2b. For each of those groups, how many of the IFR requests were accepted and denied?
 - 2c. For each request that was denied, what were the reason(s) why given at the independent panel?
3. Which clinical provision(s) were requested on each IFR application form in connection to Q.2?
4. For each IFR application in connection to Q2, please list the patients' ages at the time of submission; gender; and ethnicity.
5. Please could you list the name(s) of any organisation(s) patients were referred to for treatment?
6. How many IFR applications, for all patients, were accepted and denied each year by your Local Health Board?
7. Which mental health services commissioned by your Local Health Board are fully accessible to BSL users? Please give details.
8. Which service providers are all patients generally referred to under your Local Health Board for psychological therapies/ mental health treatment?

Our response:

Patients who require referral for deaf mental health counselling/talking therapies are not subject to Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR). IPFR requests are reserved for treatments/interventions that are new/novel/experimental for which deaf mental health counselling does not fall within that category.

Within Cwm Taf Morgannwg, we simply have a process of prior approval. To ensure there is fairness and equity in terms of the provision we provide to patients with and without hearing loss, all patients are required to be assessed by the local team. For patients with hearing loss, this will be via an interpreter in the first instance and if deaf counselling is deemed clinically appropriate, the clinician can seek prior authorisation to refer the patient to a deaf counselling provider. Such requests are processed within 24-48 hours.

The Health Board does not have a contract with a particular provider for deaf counselling services. The provider is determined by the clinician following local assessment.

The Health Board provides its own psychological therapy services, within the Mental Health Directorate.