

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_458_23

You asked:

Between March 2020 and May 2022, the UK and Welsh government implemented national and regional restrictions in an attempt to slow the spread of Covid-19. The Welsh government took a more gradual approach to easing the Covid restrictions than other nations in the UK.

Please see attached a spreadsheet, for you to complete with the information that you hold.

Our response:

Mental health service contacts

1) Contacts by consultation medium for adults

- a) Please provide the total number of contacts you have had with adults accessing help for their mental health, in the community and in A&E, broken down by the consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called "contacts by medium for adults".**

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

2) Contacts by consultation medium for children (under 18)

- a) Please provide the total number of contacts you have had with children accessing help for their mental health in the community and in A & E broken down by consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called "contacts by medium for children".**

Please see attached spreadsheet.

3) IAPT contacts by consultation medium for adults

- a) Please provide the number of contacts you have had with adults accessing Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services broken down by consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022.**

Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called "IAPT by medium for adults".

IAPT services do not exist in Wales.

4) IAPT contacts by consultation medium for children (under 18)

- a) Please provide the number of contacts you have had with children (aged under 18) accessing Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services broken down by consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called "IAPT by medium for children".**

IAPT services do not exist in Wales.

5) Depot Injections given between Jan 2020 and June 2022

- a) Please provide the number of depot injections given to patients broken down by location. Please provide a monthly breakdown between March 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called "Depot injections given".**

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

6) Alternative arrangements

- a) If a patient could not access a remote appointment, what was the Board's offer to access care?**

This was managed on an individual basis and recorded in the patients notes.

- b) If home visits or depot clinic were withdrawn for people needing depot injections, what were the alternative arrangements?**

This was managed on an individual basis and recorded in the patients notes.

Management of Covid in Psychiatric Wards between March 2020 and June 2022

- c) Did you shut any services in whole or in part or stop taking patients into a service or on a waiting list during lockdown. If yes, could you explain the reason that decision was taken.**

We continued to admit to the wards throughout the time period March 2020 to June 2022.

7) Visits to wards

- a) Did you change your policy to restrict visits from friends and family to patients on the wards during this time (Between March 2020 and June 2022)?**

Guidance on visiting arrangements to wards during Covid were implemented throughout the Health Board.

- b) Did any policies or rules for visits vary for different age groups and groups of patients?**

There was a consistent approach across the adult wards.

- c) If visits were restricted, did you put on additional methods for patients to keep in touch with friends and family such as extra phones for the wards or setting up video calls?**

Patients had access to phones on the ward. All wards also had an iPad/tablet which could be used for video calls.

- d) If yes, what date(s) did you provide extra facilities?**

These facilities remain in place despite a lifting of restrictions.

8) Access to outdoors

- a) Did you have any policies on access to outdoors/ fresh air for patients?**

There was no specific policy.

- b) Did these policies change during lock down, and if so please specify dates that any fresh air policies changed.**

Not applicable.

9) S17 Leave

a) Did you have any updated policies and procedures on s17 leave during this time? For example, was s17 leave routinely cancelled?

We didn't update the Section 17 policy during this time and leave was still given as normal, but the Responsible Clinicians added extra stipulations regarding Covid on the forms used as per the guidelines issued by Welsh Government at that time.