

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2021.895
Released – 2 August 2021

Thank you for your email dated 14 July 2021 requesting information regarding Speech and Language and Occupational Therapists.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

Original request

These questions relate to both Speech and Language Therapist and Occupational Therapists in your local authority for children and young people aged 5 - 16, for each financial year (2018/19, 2019/20 and 20/21 and 2021 – to date).

- ***The recommended caseload per officer***
- ***The actual caseload per officer***

Our service professional leads have been looking into this, including contacting the national organisations for information relating to recommended caseload per clinician and there does not appear to be any national guidance relating to specific recommended caseload numbers.

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists published a briefing in 2020 “Managing Caseload – Workload Weighting”, in which they state “allocations need to be negotiated on both sides and that practitioners need to feel caseloads are manageable”.

Clinicians will have different caseload capacities depending on their roles and responsibilities, and the needs of the children being supported. As a service we have moved away from clinicians “holding” a caseload and therefore are not able to say what an average caseload is. We work on more of a clinic based system, allocating clinicians depending on demand and capacity. Caseload management is a standing item on the Trust’s 1:1 line management meeting agenda, so that clinicians can talk about their workload and capacity with a senior clinician.

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

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