

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act Reference 2023.262
Released 26 October 2023

Thank you for your email which was received on the 21 October 2023 requesting information regarding treatment of paediatric neuropsychiatric and neuro-behaviour conditions.

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

Summary of your original request:

Treatment of conditions or probable or suspected conditions listed as i-iii) below?

- i) Pandas (Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections)***
- ii) PANS (Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome)***
- iii) immune mediated neuro behaviour conditions.***

There has been a press release in February 2023, found via the BPNA website ([https://bpna.org.uk/?page=pans-pandas.](https://bpna.org.uk/?page=pans-pandas))

Following this update from the working group. Please could you provide me with the following:

1) Tell me whether the Trust/ Hospitals treatment and diagnostic criteria has changed as a result of the working group statement. If it has, please can you send me the copies of the new policy/ procedure for treatment and diagnostic pathway.

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust is not commissioned to carry out diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, therefore we do not hold any information in relation to your request.

2a) Please could you also provide for each condition or probable/ suspected condition i)- iii) above the number of paediatric patients presenting with these conditions for each year for the past 1 year? & b) how many patients were referred to another service outside of the trust.

It is very rare for Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust to have an interaction with a patient presenting with these conditions, where it is not already being treated. On those rare occasions where this would occur, a letter containing the referral would be sent to the acute trust.

As this is not a common referral we make, the conditions are not listed within our performance reporting system and as a community health trust, we do not use clinical coding. The only way to retrieve this information would be to review the individual medical record for every patient interaction since February 2023. To do this however, would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, therefore the information requested is exempt from disclosure.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick
Trust HQ Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AZ

I have detailed below the relevant excerpt:

Section 12

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

3) Please could you provide me with any minutes of meetings which decided how patients are treated following the British Paediatric Neurology Association update on the working group in February 2023 and who made the decision to implement any changes.

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust is not commissioned to carry out diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, therefore we do not hold any information in relation to your request.

4a) Whether the Trust/ Hospital has sought commissioning to treat this cohort of patients and b) who did it approach e.g ICB or NHSE and c) whether this was approved or rejected along with the reasons why or timescales for implementation if relevant.

No, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust has not sought commissioning to treat this cohort of patients.

We recommend you redirect your enquiry to the trusts running the acute hospitals and to the mental health trusts. In Kent these are:

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Medway NHS Foundation Trust

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust