

## Freedom of Information Request

- **Any and all recorded incidents in which a person requested to be referred to an eating disorder specialist via their GP and was not referred to a specialist, between the calendar years 2016 and 2021.**
- The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) do not hold this information rather it would be held by GP Services – you may wish to contact the Primary Care Directorate of the Health and Social Care Board who are responsible for GP Services.

- **Any and all reported incidents in which a person was referred to an eating disorder specialist and did not receive treatment due to the person's BMI being too high for treatment, between the calendar years 2016 and 2021.**

There are no reported incidents, as referrals are not rejected based on BMI. BMI is not an exclusion criterion. All of the conditions listed in this FOI request are covered in the Northern Ireland Regional Pathway for Eating Disorders and referrals are triaged according to this guidance.

The NHSCT are commissioned to treat those with a moderate to severe Eating Disorder and providing someone is presenting with an eating disorder that resembles Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa or Eating Disorder Not otherwise Specified they will be offered assessment.

- **Please note I am not looking for data on NHS waiting lists for eating disorder treatment, I am specifically looking for incidents in which a patient asked for an eating disorder referral and was either not referred, or was rejected from treatment or further referral.**
- **Please note I am referring to all eating disorders, including but not limited to, anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, eating disorder not otherwise specified, and binge eating disorder**

### **Referrals not accepted by NHSCT Eating Disorder Service:**

April 2016-17 - **20**

April 2017-18 - **15**

April 2018-19 - **14**

April 2019-20 - **6**

April 2020-21 – **18**

Unfortunately, we do not have the full details why each of these referrals were returned. The most common reason for referral to be declined is that the referral does not meet the criteria for the service – specifically having an eating disorder.