

ND ref. **FOI/16/052**

### ***Freedom of Information***

Thank you for your 04/05/16 request for the following information:

*For the two calendar (or accounting) years 2014 and 2015, please could you summarise what proportion (or numbers) of treated CFS/ME patients were identified under the following categories:*

- 1. Mild CFS/ME*
- 2. Moderate CFS/ME*
- 3. Severe CFS/ME*
- 4. Very severe CFS/ME (if a distinct category)*

Answer: We do not collect CFS/ME statistics by severity. This is sometimes misleading as a patient may present with relatively mild or moderate symptoms that either change over time or on occasion are not fully explained on referral. Patients may begin treatment with moderate or mild symptoms and then require a medical review. Some patients have a recognised different medical condition where chronic fatigue is a major symptom.

However, the majority of patients we see would fall into moderate or severe category as mild cases are often self-managed or managed in primary care.

Very severe cases that require in-patient services are relatively few.

To collate the information requested would require our staff undertaking an audit and manually reviewing individual patient records. To undertake this piece of work would take in excess of the appropriate limit set by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (section 12 (1)) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The appropriate limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to retrieve the above information. I regret to inform you that we shall not process your request to the above question further.