

# UK Trans Info

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## Current Waiting Times & Patient Population For NHS England Gender Identity Clinics

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**Contains Information For up to the End of April 2015**

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**Available online: <http://uktrans.info/waitingtimes>**

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## Foreword

UK Trans Info is a national organisation focused on improving the lives of trans and non-binary people in the UK. One of our main aims is to promote transparency, clarity and openness within public sector organisations. As such we have sent a series of requests under the Freedom of Information Act to all NHS England commissioned trusts which contain an adult Gender Identity Clinic (GIC). The purpose of these requests was to find out more about the waiting lists for accessing gender identity services in England and also to find out more about the current patient population.

These requests are currently being sent on a quarterly basis. This report covers a three month period from February to April 2015.

This report does not contain details of GRS waiting times as we have been unable to get any information from the Andrology Centre or from Nuffield Health Hospital. Information about GRS waiting times at Charing Cross can be found at <http://uktrans.info/ichnt>

## First Appointments at GIC

We asked how many patients had their first appointment with the GIC in the three months. This does not include any patient that bypassed part of the waiting list.

**Table 1: Number of first appointments February to April 2015**

GIC	Appointments	% (rounded)
Charing Cross, London	217	54%
The Laurels, Exeter	50	12%
Leeds	28	7%
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	0	0%
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	35	9%
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	69	17%
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	6	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>405</b>	

We also asked how long on average those patients had been waiting for their appointment since they were referred. While this tells us the waiting time for those currently reaching the end of waiting list, it is not necessarily an accurate prediction for those who are just joining the list.

**Table 2: Average GIC waiting time for first appointments February to April 2015**

GIC	Answer Given	Converted to weeks (rounded down)
<b>Charing Cross, London</b>	12 months	52 weeks
The Laurels, Exeter	17 weeks	17 weeks
<b>Leeds</b>	442.39 days	63 weeks
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	N/A*	N/A*
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	11 weeks	11 weeks
<b>Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria</b>	8 months	35 weeks
<b>Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield</b>	33.11 weeks	33 weeks
<b>IMPORTANT NOTE: These waiting times refer to those who have just reached the end of the list. This is not an indication of how long you will have to wait if you have been referred.</b>		

*\*Newcastle did not see any new patients during this period who didn't bypass the waiting list*

Average waiting times that have exceeded 18 weeks have been highlighted in red and bolded (see later section for details of 18 Week Referral to Treatment Rights).

## First Appointments at GIC after Bypassing List

We asked each GIC how many patients had their first appointment with the GIC after bypassing some or all of the waiting list.

The Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service in Newcastle was the only clinic who had patients who bypassed the waiting list. They had four such patients, and said:

*“2 of these patients bypassed the waiting list because their referral was from the Tavistock Clinic in London and therefore prioritised, as per NHS England’s instructions.*

*1 patient was seen for initial assessment due to an administrative error. However, their second assessment will be scheduled to ensure this does not ultimately result in prioritisation over those referred at a similar time.*

*1 patient was seen because they are currently an inpatient, where another of the service’s patients is also admitted. Travel time to the unit is a 4 hour return trip and it was felt that seeing the other patient at the same time was a better use of available NHS resources.”*

## Current GIC Waiting Lists

We asked how many patients were still on the waiting list for a first appointment as of the end of April 2015. We also asked how many new referrals had been received over the three months.

**Table 3: Patients on waiting list for an appointment at end of April 2015**

GIC	Patients	% (rounded)
Charing Cross, London	1359	50%
The Laurels, Exeter	161	6%
Leeds	405	15%
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	269	10%
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	79	3%
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	334	12%
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	137	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2744</b>	

**Table 4: New referrals received February to April 2015**

GIC	Referrals	% (rounded)
Charing Cross, London	446	40%
The Laurels, Exeter	151	13%
Leeds	109	10%
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	64	6%
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	85	8%
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	222	20%
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	43	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1120</b>	

## Current GIC Patient Population

We asked how many patients were currently under the care of each GIC. We defined this to include all patients who have had their first appointment but have not yet been discharged from the clinic.

**Table 5: Current Patient Population as of End of April 2015**

GIC	Patients	% (rounded)
Charing Cross, London	3488	58%
The Laurels, Exeter	679	11%
Leeds	329	5%
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	302	5%
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	106	2%
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	856	14%
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	256	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6016</b>	

If we combine this information with the waiting list information in table 3 then we can see how many people are engaging with gender identity services at any stage from referral to discharge. This will not include anybody who has been referred to a local mental health assessment service prior to referral.

**Table 6: Current Patient Population (including waiting list) as of End of April 2015**

GIC	Patients	% (rounded)
Charing Cross, London	4847	55%
The Laurels, Exeter	840	10%
Leeds	734	8%
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	571	7%
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	185	2%
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	1190	14%
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	393	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8760</b>	

We also asked how many patients were discharged during the three months.

**Table 7: Patients Discharged February to April 2015**

GIC	Patients Discharged
Charing Cross, London	436
The Laurels, Exeter	102
Leeds	61
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	9
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	7
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	61
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>685</b>

## Annual Figures

As we had reached the end of the 2014/15 financial year, we also asked each GIC how many new patients they had seen in the entire year from April 2014 to March 2015.

**Table 8: New Patients Seen in the Year Between April 2014 and March 2015**

GIC	Patients	Avg Per Month	% (rounded)
Charing Cross, London	906	76	46%
The Laurels, Exeter	360	30	18%
Leeds	143	12	7%
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	46	4	2%
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	47	4	2%
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	418	35	21%
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	67	6	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>167</b>	

Using this information and the waiting list information from Table 3, we can look at how long it would take to clear the current waiting list at this rate.

**Table 9: Time to clear current waiting list as of April 2015**

GIC	Waiting List End of April 2015	Time to clear at last year's average rate (rounded up)
Charing Cross, London	1359	1 year 6 months
The Laurels, Exeter	161	6 months
Leeds	405	2 years 10 months
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	269	5 years 8 months
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	79	1 year 8 months
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	334	10 months
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	137	1 year 11 months
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2744</b>	

However this would just be to clear those who are already on the waiting list, and doesn't take into account new referrals. By looking at the average number of new referrals, we can see that the waiting list at each GIC is on average increasing every month.

**Table 10: Waiting list change per month**

GIC	Average new referrals*	Average patients having first appointment	Waiting list increase
Charing Cross, London	114	76	38
The Laurels, Exeter	41	30	11
Leeds	30	12	18
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	18	4	14
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	15	4	11
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	56	35	21
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	10	6	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>117</b>

*\*This figure is only based on last seven months as distribution of referrals has been significantly changed by the increased transparency over waiting lists caused by our reports*

This means that if nothing changes, all of the GICs will have waiting lists in excess of a year by March 2017, and those referred to Newcastle will have a wait of twelve and a half years.

**Table 11: Projected waiting list by end of March 2017 if nothing changes**

GIC	Projected Waiting List End of March 2017	Projected Waiting Time for Someone Referred 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017
Charing Cross, London	2261	2 years 6 months
The Laurels, Exeter	428	1 year 2 months
Leeds	847	5 years 11 months
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	598	12 years 6 months
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	353	7 years 4 months
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	835	1 year 2 months
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	223	3 years 1 month
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5545</b>	

In order for GICs to bring waiting lists down to less than 18 weeks by March 2017 there will need to be a significant increase in new patients being seen each month.

**Table 12: Average new patient appointments required in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 years to bring waiting lists down to four months by March 2017 based on current referral rate**

GIC	Average appts per month required	% increase from current required	Waiting List would be end of Mar 2017
Charing Cross, London	144	189%	629
The Laurels, Exeter	41	137%	164
Leeds	40	333%	175
Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service, Newcastle	25	625%	94
Northamptonshire Gender Dysphoria Service, Daventry	16	400%	65
Nottingham Centre for Gender Dysphoria	59	169%	259
Porterbrook Clinic, Sheffield	13	217%	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>202%</b>	<b>1441</b>

However this is unlikely to happen as some clinics have had the number of new patients they can see artificially limited by NHS England. Until this is resolved the GICs affected cannot reduce waiting lists. We asked each GIC how many patients they were commissioned to see in the 2015/16 year:

- Exeter, London, Newcastle, Nottingham said that their contract that didn't specify a limit on the number of patients they could see.
- Sheffield are only contracted to see 69 new patients in the year (current waiting list is 137)
- Leeds are only contracted to see 160 new patients in the year (current waiting list is 405)
- In a disappointing lack of transparency, Northampton refused to release this information because *"release of this information could lead to information entering the public domain which would undermine the commercial position of the Trust and would be potentially damaging to the commercial reputation and the business confidence of the parties. The Trust has considered carefully the likelihood of prejudice occurring if the information is released and have concluded that there is a real and significant risk. The disclosure of this information could potentially harm the Trust's ability to achieve best value and to participate fairly and equally in future procurements."*