



**North London  
Mental Health  
Partnership**



**Barnet, Enfield and Haringey**  
Mental Health NHS Trust  
**Camden and Islington**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# **Safer Patient Flow – Strengthening the PICU and Prison Interface**

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# Operational Context

- NAPICU - Quality & Good Practice Guidance 2023 (Revised September 2023).
- The Transfer and Remission of Adult Prisoners under the Mental Health Act, Good Practice Guidance, June 2021.
- NHSE National Reporting on all MH Transfers, under s47 or s48, Date of Referral to Date of Transfer, in accordance with the 28 day National Standard.
- Pan London Remission Process, May 2022.
- NHSE Mental Health Compact, updated January 2024, to include clarity in relation to treating prisoners, to include NFA status, supporting timely catchment responsibility decisions.

# Mental Health Transfers by service type and average Referral to Transfer time, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

<b>Service Type</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Open Acute	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
%	<b>1.50%</b>	<b>0.50%</b>
average R to T	<b>21.33</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PICU</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>78</b>
%	<b>34.50%</b>	<b>36.50%</b>
average R to T	<b>33.71</b>	<b>29.05</b>
Low Secure	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>
%	<b>16.50%</b>	<b>14%</b>
average R to T	<b>73.17</b>	<b>66.37</b>
Medium Secure	<b>92</b>	<b>90</b>
%	<b>43.50%</b>	<b>42.00%</b>
average R to T	<b>66.25</b>	<b>75.15</b>
High Secure	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>
%	<b>4.00%</b>	<b>7%</b>
average R to T	<b>83.22</b>	<b>118.93</b>
<b>All service types</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>213</b>
average R to T	<b>56.27</b>	<b>59.91</b>

## Themes for Discussion – valuing opinions

- For the last two years, around 35% of all transfer activity from a London Prison is to a PICU, recognising the importance of this pathway for unwell patients in Prison.
- An average Referral to Transfer time delivered of 29.05 days.
- The majority will be prisoners on remand, s48/49, under a Magistrate Court or Crown Court, with the potential for a delay in court progression, and introducing Fitness to Plead process.
- In each PICU Ward, there could be a high proportion of patients subject to restriction to include Hospital Order.
- There is a risk of increased Length of Stay, for patients clinically fit for discharge, who could be supported in an open acute ward.
- Recognising that a Prison Pathway is only one of a number of referral pathway for a PICU.
- Not all patients from Prison will require a PICU, is there MoJ flexibility?
- We need to understand the role of a PICU in the health of non-sentenced and sentenced prisoners.
- Are we maximising all options under the MHA, such as s35,36 rather than only s48/49? Civil Section to support Bail Applications, specifically prisoners under a Magistrate Court.
- There is an important alignment to Liaison & Diversion delivery, as we are seeing an increase in patients who are referred soon after arrival into Prison.

HMP	2022/23 Transfers	Average Referral to Transfer	2023/24 Transfers	Average Referral to Transfer
Brixton	7	62.57 days	4	44.25 days
Pentonville	45	41.42 days	55	63.16 days
Wormwood Scrubs	40	69.38 days	50	50.34 days
Wandsworth	43	51.93 days	48	39.72 days
Belmarsh	35	71.97 days	19	109.05 days
Thameside	37	52.97 days	30	78.40 days
Isis	4	28.25 days	3	29 days
Feltham	1	28 days	4	43.75 days

- In 2022/23, there were 212 MH Transfers, at an average Referral to Transfer time of 56.27 days.
- In 2023/24, there were 213 MH Transfers, at an average Referral to Transfer time of 59.91 days.