REQUEST AND RESPONSE

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 5 July 2013 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. All answers relate to NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group only. I can confirm this Clinical Commissioning Group does hold the information you requested. The information request is listed below together with the response:

1. How does the clinical commissioning group ensure that primary care professionals such as GPs and optometrists use a rapid referred scheme to make sure that suspected wet age related macular degeneration (w AMD) patients are seen by a consultant led team rapidly, i.e. within one week, after presenting to a health care professional as recommended by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists? Wet AMD is an eye condition. Please provide a copy of the rapid referral form.

The CCG has a rapid access pathway for suspected wet AMD – a copy of this pathway and the referral form is attached. All GPs and optometrists are aware of and utilise this pathway and referral form. (Available on request)

2. How many new suspected wet age related macular degeneration patients have been referred into secondary care in the past financial year (2012-2013) within this CCG area?

We do not hold this information as the referral information that we receive does not include this level of detail.

2A) Of those patients, how many were referred using a rapid referral scheme? If known, how were the other patients referred?

Please see answer to question 2 above.
3. Please provide a copy of the referral to treatment times for wet age related macular degeneration patients (and only those patients) for the financial year of 2012-2013. If possible please provide time from identification of eye condition to diagnosis and from diagnosis to treatment. Please provide all information that you have available on this point - i.e. not just the average wait.

The CCG does not have access to this information, as provider Trusts are required only to report compliance with the 18 weeks referral to treatment target at specialty as opposed to sub-specialty level.