

Freedom of Information request 76-17

Request

1. The names of the hospitals within your trust/board that contain asbestos.
2. How many reported incidents of asbestos exposure have there been in these hospitals between 2006 and 2016.
3. The number of hospital staff (existing and retired staff to include both medical and non medical staff) and patients that have pursued a claim against you for exposure to asbestos within a hospital run by your trust/board.
4. The number of these claims that have been settled.
5. The amount of money that has been paid in settlement of these claims (with and without your trust/board accepting responsibility).

Response

1. There are 4 hospital buildings (Huntlyburn House, Haylodge Hospital, Knoll Hospital and Kelso Hospital). NHS Borders buildings are maintained in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. A register of all asbestos containing materials is kept and is available within the Estates department for review on request. The asbestos containing materials are labelled and regularly monitored by an independent consultant.
2. There have been no reported incidents of asbestos exposure in these hospitals in the time period requested.
3. There have been <5 cases of staff and patients pursuing a claim against our Board for exposure to asbestos. Please note these are all historic cases whereby the buildings in question are no longer within NHS Borders' estate.
4. There have been <5 claims settled.
5. There has been no money paid in settlement of these claims.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **76-17** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.

