

## Freedom of Information request 81-17

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### Request & Response

This is a request for information made pursuant to Freedom of Information legislation. I would be grateful if you would answer the following questions.

1. Does NHS Borders provide the GMC-recognised specialty of General Surgery?

Yes.

2. Please tell me how many consultants in General Surgery you have providing the following numbers: headcount and WTE.

Headcount – 6 WTE – 5.4

3. How many of your consultant general surgeons are locums or the holders of other temporary appointments?

Two.

4. Do you have any honorary consultant general surgeons who may hold a substantive elsewhere?

Yes.

5. Do you any of your substantive consultant general surgeons hold honorary appointments elsewhere, e.g. clinical lecturership?

No.

6. Do any of your consultants undertake independent/private work in addition to their NHS commitments?

Yes.

7. What are the sub-specialist interests of your consultants, e.g. breast, colorectal, endocrine, oncoplastic, paediatric or upper gastrointestinal surgery?

Breast, Colorectal, Upper GI and Bariatric, ERCP, Thyroid and Laparoscopic surgery.

8. Do any of the consultants listed in #7 (above) only practise benign surgery and refer malignant cases to tertiary centres for cancer resections, e.g. oesophageal cancer?

Upper GI surgery is provided only on benign disease, malignant cases go to tertiary centre.

9. Do your consultant general surgeons practise gastrointestinal endoscopy and if yes which of the following: upper GI tract, lower GI tract, small video capsule, ERCP; diagnostic, therapeutic?

We provide upper GI endoscopy, ERCP – diagnostic and therapeutic and are being trained in lower GI endoscopy.

10. Do any or all of your consultant general surgeons practise laparoscopic surgery? If yes, which ones?

All consultants practise laparoscopic surgery - cholecystectomies, appendicectomies, diagnostic

laparoscopy, incisional, inguinal, periumbilical hernia repair, colorectal and bariatric surgery, fundoplication.

11. Can you please list the names of your consultant general surgeons, their qualifications (e.g. MBChB, MD, FRCS, etc.) and their sub-specialist interests?

Names and GMC numbers provided – details of Specialist Registration and qualifications are in the public domain and can be found on the [General Medical Council](http://www.gmc-uk.org) website.

Name	GMC
Martin Berlansky	6139105
Ahmed Mustafa	6047738
James Young	4729840
Shareef Al-Sabounchi	6064896
John O'Neill	2338275
Srihari Vallabhajousula	6034824

12. Can you please describe your arrangement for Emergency General Surgery (EGS)? Do you, for example, have a consultant assigned to EGS and free of elective work for a period of time? If there a team of dedicated junior medical staff allocated to EGS? Is there dedicated theatre time for EGS, e.g. an NCEPOD list? Do you have dedicated beds for EGS, perhaps a dedicated ward or unit?

One consultant is on call for the whole week. He/she is free of all elective activities. Middle grade surgeons alternate every day – there is a dedicated on call team consisting of consultant, middle grader and FY1 all the time. On call team reviews every surgical patient daily regardless of patients` consultant. Dedicated on call theatre is CEPOD – every afternoon, in the case of immediate emergency, they break into any elective lists. Dedicated ward for acute surgical admissions is W7.

13. Please provide the number of non-consultant doctors, training and non-training grades, that you have in General Surgery and who their employer is if it is not you. For example, core surgical trainees may be employed by another board that is the lead employer for doctors in such posts.

12.

14. Besides consultants and other doctors are there any nurses employed in General Surgery, e.g. clinical nurse specialist, advanced nurse practitioners, etc. In areas such as breast, colorectal or stoma care. Please state job titles, area of specialism and number of each.

3 Clinical Nurse Specialists – breast, colorectal and stoma care. Number of each is difficult to establish as they tend to work part time but overall we have got 1.0 breast, 1.5 colorectal, 1.5 stoma care. We have got 2 Urology Nurse Specialists.

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](mailto: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 **81-17** 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.