

Freedom of Information request 162-17

Request

1. The number of mortuaries operating in NHS Borders
2. The number of freezer units/compartments available to store deceased bodies at the BGH
3. Please provide a breakdown of the number of bodies held at the BGH over the past five years.
4. Are bodies ever stored at other locations? If so, please provide the names of organisations involved.
5. Please provide a breakdown of the number of bodies stored at the other locations over the past five years
6. When did bodies start being stored in other locations?
7. Please provide a breakdown of the costs of storing bodies in buildings operated by other organisations, including any transportation costs, over the past five years along with the reasons why they were stored outwith the BGH

Response

1. There is one mortuary operating in NHS Borders.
2. No freezer units within NHS Borders. 2 blocks of fridges with a total of 27 compartments
3. Please find below number of bodies held at BGH:

2012 - 573
2013 - 539
2014 - 681
2015 - 593
2016 - 645
4. Bodies that are designated as fiscal case will be stored at the City Mortuary Edinburgh.
5. NHS Borders do not hold this data. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide.
6. Fiscal bodies have been stored at the City Mortuary from 1 January 2014.
7. As above – fiscal bodies; costs are within the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal service budgets, we have no access to this information.

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 **162-17** 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.