

Freedom of Information request 240-17

Request

Below is my request:

1. Could you please tell me how many prescriptions of medical grade heroin have been issued for each of the past five years – including so far this year?
2. Could you please tell me how many methadone prescriptions have been issued for each of the past five years – including so far this year?
3. Could you tell me the protocol for issuing medical grade heroin to drug users who have not responded to methadone?
4. Could you tell me how medical grade heroin is given to users?

Response

1. NHS Borders do not issue Diamorphine for addiction, therefore there have been no prescriptions issued in the last 5 years for this indication.
2. Data on methadone prescribing can be found at the following link:
<http://www.scotpho.org/downloads/drugs/Drugs-prescribing-2015-2016.xlsx>
Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.
3. NHS Borders do not issue medical grade heroin to drug users, therefore there is no protocol in place.
4. Not applicable.

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 **240-17** 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.