

Freedom of Information request 278-17

Request

I would like to request information about specialist breast nurses and specialist breast reconstruction surgeons in the NHS Borders health board area.

Could you tell me the number of nurses in the NHS Borders health board area which are specialist breast nurses, i.e. nurses who are trained in the specialist care of patients with breast cancer? Can you also tell me the number of plastic surgeons in the NHS Borders health board area which are trained in:

- prosthesis/implant breast reconstruction
- 'free flap'/'free tissue' breast reconstruction

I understand that some surgeons skilled in 'free flap'/'free tissue' reconstructions will also be skilled in implant/prosthesis reconstructions. Please count these surgeons twice, i.e. once in the implant/prosthesis tally, and once in the 'free flap'/'free tissue' tally.

If there are no specialist breast nurses or surgeons skilled in these procedures permanently operating within the NHS Borders health board, please say so.

Response

NHS Borders has 1 WTE Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist and 2 Surgeons trained in prosthesis/implant breast reconstruction.

NHS Borders do not conduct 'free flap'/'free tissue' reconstructions.

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 **278-17** 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.