

Freedom of Information request 306-17

Request

Could the health board provide:

- The number of times mental health patients were sent 'out of area' (i.e. outwith their own health board) for treatment in 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17;
- How far patients were sent (i.e. how many miles), and their health board of residence and the health board/ equivalent in the rest of the UK they were sent to for treatment;
- The mental health problems patients were suffering from (e.g. eating disorder)?

Response

1. NHS Borders aims to provide patient care within local services. Where necessary NHS Borders also commissions mental health services from NHS Lothian through various Service Level Agreements. The number of patients treated in NHS Lothian for all mental health inpatient services are shown below in table 1.

On occasion patients may need to receive inpatient mental health treatment from other NHS Scotland providers. The information provided in table 2 is nationally recorded data from NSS (National Services Scotland) Information Service Division Scotland (ISD) on out of area treatments for Borders residents excluding NHS Lothian.

In exceptional circumstances patients may need to receive mental health care from another provider outwith NHS Scotland. A manual trawl of invoices received for patients treated under Extra Contractual Referrals would be required but the cost of carrying out this work would be outwith the parameters of FOI legislation. Therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S) we are not required to provide this information..

table 1 - NHS Borders patients receiving Inpatient mental health treatment at NHS Lothian facilities

Board	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
	Adult & Child	Adult & Child	Adult & Child
NHS Lothian	32	19	19

table 2 - NHS Borders patients receiving Inpatient mental health treatment at Other NHS Scotland facilities (Excluding NHS Lothian)

Board	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
	Adult & Child	Adult & Child	Adult & Child
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	0	0	0
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	0	0	0
NHS Fife	<5	<5	0
NHS Forth Valley	0	<5	<5
NHS Grampian	<5	0	0

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<5	<5	<5
NHS Highland	0	0	0
NHS Lanarkshire	<5	0	0
NHS Tayside	<5	<5	0
Total number mental health Inpatients	10	9	5

Please note that due to the numbers involved to provide further details could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol.

- The distance to NHS Scotland services are varied depending on location of the units providing the required patient care. The table below gives an indicative mileage from Borders General Hospital to each Scottish provider's relevant mental health inpatient services:

Distance from Borders General Hospital to other Scottish NHS providers

Board	Mileage distance from BGH one way (approximate)	Mileage distance from BGH & return (approximate)
NHS Lothian	55	110
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	107	214
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	63	126
NHS Fife	69	138
NHS Forth Valley	70	140
NHS Grampian	188	376
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	82	164
NHS Highland	195	390
NHS Lanarkshire	78	156
NHS Tayside	80	160

- The mental health treatments received by patients vary, the table below lists the various specialities recorded where patients have been treated.

Specialities within Mental Health teams
Adult Mental Health
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
General Psychiatry (Mental Illness)
Perinatal MH Services
Psychiatry of Old Age
Young Persons Unit
Eating disorders unit
Intensive Psychiatric Cae unit

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 **306-17** 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.