

Freedom of Information request 349-17

Request

I would be very grateful if you could please provide me with information on the following under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. How many patients under your care have gone missing in each of the last 3 years.
2. How many patients have been found in the same period.
3. What is the longest time any patient has been missing. How old were they. Where did they go missing from.
4. How many patients under the age of 16 have been lost in each of the last 3 years. What ages were each of these missing patients. How long were each of these children missing.
5. How many fatalities have occurred as a result of patients going missing. What ages were the fatalities.

Response

1. Within NHS Borders there has been a total of 276 patients identified as absconded between the years 2014 and to date July 2017.

2017 to date	55
2016	66
2015	96
2014	59

2. Please note the outcomes are not routinely collated centrally but in individual records and would require a manual trawl of patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not obliged to provide.
3. Please note the length of disappearance is not routinely collated centrally but in individual records and would require a manual trawl of patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not obliged to provide.

As NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of incidents is very small, and to provide further details of these 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.

4. Please note the age of the individual is not collated centrally but in individual records and would require a manual trawl of patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not obliged to provide.
5. No fatalities have occurred as a result of patients going missing.

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 **349-17** 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.