

## Freedom of Information request 350-17

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### Request

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like answers to the following questions:

- 1) How many nurses, midwives, health visitors and healthcare assistants had to pass the International English Language Test System (IELTS) exam before they joined your organisation?
- 2) How many nurses, midwives, health visitors and healthcare assistants undertook IELTS exams while already employed by your organisation?
- 3) For the last two financial years please identify:
  - a. How many nurses failed IELTS
  - b. How many nurses retook the IELTS exam
  - c. How many nurses passed the IELTS exam
- 4) If your organisation covers the cost of any form of tutorial support for nurses before they undertake IELTS please provide the cost of this.

### Response

NHS Borders do not require staff in any of the categories listed to undertake a formal test to confirm their ability to speak the English language.

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](mailto: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 **350-17** 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.