

Freedom of Information request 423-17

Request

1. Please identify the clinical areas within your physiotherapy services that provide placements for physiotherapy undergraduates in the last financial year (1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017).
2. Please confirm/deny whether NHS Borders provides MSK services that include first contact physiotherapists in General Practice
3. Please confirm/deny whether patients can self-refer to physiotherapy services within the MSK services provided by NHS Borders

Notes on terms used in Request 6

First contact physiotherapists in General Practice

- *When an individual contacts their GP they can be offered a consultation with the First contact physiotherapist instead of seeing the GP and without needing to see the GP first.*
- *First contact physiotherapists in General Practice provide assessment, diagnosis, exercise/ self-care advice, and if necessary, referral for investigations or treatment.*
- *They may work solely in General Practice (s) or they may be both part of the GP team and a physiotherapy team providing services in community or secondary care.*
- *First contact physiotherapists in General Practice have been given a variety of different job titles*

Self-referral to physiotherapy services

Self-referral is the term for a means of accessing physiotherapy services, where patients can arrange an appointment without needing to be referred by a health professional.

Response

1. Clinical areas which provide placements are:
 - Respiratory
 - Care of Elderly/Neurology (Acute & Community)
 - Musculoskeletal
 - Orthopaedics
 - Mental Health
 - Paediatrics

(Palliative Care/Oncology, Women's Health, Hydrotherapy, Rapid Assessment & Discharge Team and Community Rehabilitation Team also offer placements but were not taken up the year in question)

2. NHS Borders does not provide MSK services that include first contact physiotherapists in General Practice
3. From February 2016 patients seeking self referral to NHS Borders MSK physiotherapy service are directed to contact NHS 24 Musculoskeletal Advice and Triage Service (MATS). This service provides initial advice to support self management and may forward a referral to NHS Borders on behalf of the patient. This process does not require an additional referral from a health professional.

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 **423-17** 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.