

## Freedom of Information request 428-17

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### Request

1. The number of patients reported missing from health board services (e.g. hospitals) in 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17;
2. The number of patients under the age of 16 reported missing from health board services (e.g. hospitals) in 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17;
3. The outcome (e.g. found on same day) of each patient reported missing from health board services (e.g. hospitals) in 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17;
4. The number of fatalities linked to missing patients in 2014-15, 2015-15 and 2016-17?

### Response

1. Please find below the number of reported cases of patients having absconded from NHS Borders' in-patient areas for each financial year.

Year	Number of reports of Absconion
01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	86
01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016	86
01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017	66

2. Please find below the number of reported cases of patients, aged under 16, having absconded from NHS Borders' in-patient areas for each financial year.

Year	Number of reports of Absconion of patients under the age of 16
01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	<5
01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016	<5
01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017	0

3. This data is not readily available electronically and would require a manual trawl of each reported incident. This would exceed the limit set in the Fees regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.
4. Please find below the number of reported cases of patients having absconded from NHS Borders' in-patient areas resulting in a fatality for each financial year.

Year	Number of reports of Absconion leading to a patient fatality
01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	0
01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016	0
01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017	0

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 **428-17** 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.