

## Freedom of Information request 90-18

---

### Request

Having sent the following Freedom of Information request to Scottish Border Council, I have been advised it would be better to send the request to NHS Borders. As such I am looking for the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

1. How many looked after children are given the comprehensive health assessment within four weeks of being taken under the care of the local authority? Expressed in real figures and as a percentage. Broken down by local authority, for each of the last five years.
2. How many looked after children are not given the comprehensive health assessment within four weeks of being taken under the care of the local authority? Expressed in real figures and as a percentage? Expressed in real figures and as a percentage. Broken down by local authority, for each of the last five years.
3. How long does it take for each child to receive a comprehensive health assessment if the four week target is not met? Broken down by local authority, for each of the last five years.

### Response

1. Please find below the number of looked after children who received a comprehensive health assessment within four weeks of being taken under the care of the local authority in each of the years we hold data for:

Year	No. children	%
2014	19	58%
2015	36	72%
2016	23	47%
2017	27	82%

Note: improvement plan implemented in 2016/17 included:

- increase in numbers of clinics/appointments available
- assessment of health records/chronology within 1 week of notification of child being accommodated and immediate response to any health needs identified

2. Please find below the number of looked after children who did not receive a comprehensive health assessment within four weeks of being taken under the care of the local authority in each of the years we hold data for:

Year	No. children who did not receive health assessment within 4 weeks of being accommodated by Scottish Borders Council	%
2014	14	42%
2015	10	28%
2016	26	53%
2017	6	18%

3. Please find below the maximum time taken for a child to receive a comprehensive health assessment where the four week target was not met:

Year	Time taken for each child to receive health assessment if 4 week target is not met
2014	Data not recorded
2015	8 weeks
2016	8 weeks
2017	7 weeks
Note: Primary reason for the delay was obtaining consent from parents	

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 **90-18** 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.