

Freedom of Information request 164-18

Request

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:

1. From the latest data, how many FTE chemotherapy nurse posts in your trust are vacant?
2. How many FTE chemotherapy nurse posts do you currently have funded?
3. How does this compare to the situation on 1st April 2013? For the sake of clarity: please can you provide answers on the same questions in Q1 and Q2 but for 1st April 2013 if possible.
4. How are you currently filling the shifts that should be covered by the vacant posts?
5. Have you had to offer less regular chemotherapy cycles in any way as a result of this?

Response

1. NHS Borders does not employ specific Chemotherapy nurses. We have no vacancies within the Borders Macmillan Centre.
2. NHS Borders does not employ specific Chemotherapy nurses. Our funded establishment for Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) nurses, who deliver chemotherapy, is 6.6 WTE.
3. a) We do not have data on vacancy rate in April 2013, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this information is not held and we cannot provide.
b) In April 2013 we had 5.8 WTE SACT nurses within the funded establishment.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.

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 **164-18** 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.

