

Freedom of Information request 344-18

Request

Q1) How many patients were admitted to a ward other than the specialist unit to which they would normally or should have been admitted (this is now known as type of boarding out as opposed to type b where after admission to the correct ward they are then moved) in a) 2015/16, b) 2016/17, c) 2017/18 and d) currently

Q2) How many patients were being moved between hospital wards between the hours of 11pm and 6am in a) 2015/16, b) 2016/17, c) 2017/18 and d) currently

Q3) How many patients were moved (boarded out) more than a) once b) twice c) three or more times in a) 2015/16, b) 2016/17, c) 2017/18 and d) currently

Q4) How many patients who were boarded out had a diagnosis of dementia or delirium in a) 2015/16, b) 2016/17, c) 2017/18 and d) currently

Q5) Do you have a specific ward for use as a blaring out ward or are patients dispersed to wherever there is an empty bed in a) 2015/16, b) 2016/17, c) 2017/18 and d) currently

Q6) How many patients were discharged home from an inpatient or assessment unit (i.e. excluding Accident and Emergency) between 11pm and 8 am in a) 2015/16, b) 2016/17, c) 2017/18 and d) currently

Response

1. Please find below the number of patients admitted to a ward other than the one they would normally be admitted to in the years requested:

2015/2016 = 559
2016/2017 = 401
2017/2018 = 317
Current (2018/19 to date) = 105

2. Please find below how many patients are moved between hospital wards between the hours requested:

Year	No. between 11pm – 6am	No. between 6:01am – 10:59pm	Total	% Overnight of Total
2015/16	824	5696	6520	12.6%
2016/17	957	5448	6405	14.9%
2017/18	1055	5229	6284	16.8%
2018/19 to date	376	1912	2288	16.4%

3. NHS Borders do not hold the number of times a patient was boarded out electronically. This data may be held in a patient's notes but this would require a manual trawl of all notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

4. NHS Borders do not hold the number of times a patient was boarded out with a diagnosis of dementia or delirium electronically. This data may be held in a patient's notes but this would require a manual trawl of all notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore under Section 12 we are not required to provide
5. Patients are moved to wherever there is ward capacity and are safe to care for them. This predominantly means moving patients from Medicine to Surgical or Gynaecology wards, as these wards tend to have a greater number of available beds. This is true for the years noted. A number of initiatives are underway to reduce the need to 'board' patients, recognising that this is often a sub-optimal pathway for patients.
6. Please find data as per request below:

Patients Discharged Between the Hours of 11pm and 8am: *Financial Years 2015'16 to 2017'18*

Hospital	2015'16	2016'17	2017'18	2018'19 (Apr to date)
Total	103	109	76	45

Notes:

This report excludes:-

Obstetric Patients

Discharges with a length of stay of 0 days – mostly emergency admissions for assessment through A&E

Patients self discharging against clinical advice

Patient transfers between hospitals.

Deaths

Source: TrakCare

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 **344-18** 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.