

## Freedom of Information request 427-18

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### Request

I would be very grateful if you could send me the following information;

1. The number of patients registered within your Health Board area with a diagnosis of Epilepsy
2. The number of patients with epilepsy who have been reviewed in the A&E departments of the hospitals within your Health Board between August 2017 and July 2018
3. The number of patients with epilepsy who have then been admitted to a ward area and their average length of stay between August 2017 and July 2018
4. The number of patients with epilepsy who have been readmitted more than once to the hospitals within your Health Board between August 2017 and July 2018
  - The reason for the readmission for example;
  - Poor seizure control
  - Non-compliance with medication
  - Increase in seizure activity
  - Psychotic episode following seizure

### Response

1. NHS Borders do not routinely collate this data electronically, this data would be held in a patient's notes but to extract this data 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, therefore we are not required to provide.
2. Between August 2017 and July 2018 99 patients attended A&E with a diagnosis of epilepsy.
3. Between August 2017 and July 2018 15 patients were admitted to a ward and their average length of stay was 1.4 days.
4. There were <5 patients with epilepsy who were readmitted to hospital in this period.

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of patients is very small, and to provide further details of the reasons why they were readmitted could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol.

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 **427-18** 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.