

Freedom of Information request 518-18

Request

- 1) The number of physicians available to examine victims of sexual offences (i) at the current time, and (ii) at the end of each of the last three financial years. Please also provide a breakdown by gender of the physician, if appropriate.
- 2) The number of nurses available to examine victims of sexual offences (i) at the current time, and (ii) at the end of each of the last three financial years. Please also provide a breakdown by gender of the physician, if appropriate.

Response

NHS Borders has one female Paediatric Consultant who can carry out a forensic examination on children and young people, and there are no trained nurses. With regards to adults, there is a SEAT (regional) Healthcare and Forensic Medical Service which provides the operational clinical staff to facilitate the forensic medical examination – the workforce is provided from NHS Lothian to Borders, Fife and Forth Valley. There are currently no trained internal staff to carry out adult forensic medical examinations.

The Emergency Department role in sexual assault is to screen for life threatening injuries and then ensure the police are involved with patient consent to preserve any forensic information. There is one Doctor in the ED overnight – who may be male or female. We do not generate a rota on sex so even if 2-3 doctors working there could be a mix or just one or other sex. If there was a issue about seeing a male doctor an effort would be made to see if an inpatient doctor of appropriate sex and experience could come to the department.

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 **518-18** 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.