

## Freedom of Information request 544-18

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### Request

1. What is the total number of children and young people diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy by your Trust/Health Board in the last five years? (N.B.: this should be recorded as a total figure rather than figures for each year individually.)
2. What is the care pathway for children and young people with cerebral palsy in your Trust/Health Board? Please provide a copy of this if possible.
3. Is there a specific timescale set out in your care pathway for referral to a child development service for diagnosis of cerebral palsy from the point when symptoms are initially identified? If so, please provide this data.
4. What is the total number of:
  - a. Health visitors employed by your Trust/Health Board?
  - b. Specialist health visitors for children with special needs employed by your Trust/Health Board?
5. What training is given to healthcare professionals, including health visitors and GPs, to recognise the risk factors and possible symptoms for Cerebral Palsy?
6. What is the total number of specialist staff employed by your Trust/Health Board, who are trained to work with children and young people with Cerebral Palsy, from the following disciplines:
  - a. Paediatric speech and language therapy
  - b. Paediatric physiotherapy
  - c. Paediatric occupational therapy
7. How many children and young people with Cerebral Palsy are currently on a waiting list to access any of the above services within your Trust/Health Board?

### Response

1. This information is not recorded electronically. This data may be held in a patient's notes but this would require a manual trawl 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.
2. All babies and young children for whom there are developmental concerns are referred to a Locality Paediatrician for assessment and/or diagnosis. This referral can come from a GP, Health Visitor or Physiotherapist. The Locality Paediatrician liaises with other services as appropriate. In many cases the Locality Paediatrician will already be involved in the care providing follow-up for neonatal issues. There is no written care pathway.
3. There is no defined timescale.

4. a) There are 35.3 WTE Health Visitors.  
b) We do not have any specialist roles.
5. There has been no specific specialist training beyond the current standard professional education and training programmes which include cerebral palsy and its various causes as part of the normal curriculum. AHP & Health Visiting staff have additionally attended out of area courses.
6. a) 1.6 WTE Paediatric SLT staff provide support.  
b) 1.5 WTE Paediatric Physiotherapy staff provide support.  
c) 1.2 WTE Paediatric Occupational Therapy staff provide support.
7. This information is not recorded electronically. This data may be held in a patient's notes but this would require a manual trawl 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.

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 **544-18** 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.