

Freedom of Information request 545-18

Request

I'm interested in obtaining specific information related to reported surgical fires in the operating theatre setting in NHS Borders.

- 1) What is the number of surgical fires incidents reported in NHS Borders for the period 2010-2018? Please provide a breakdown for each year.
- 2) Can you please include a breakdown of the type of surgical fires incidents for the period 2010-2018, broken down by each year and characterised as follows:
 - a. chemical ignition
 - b. chemical related
 - c. diathermy related
 - d. equipment related
 - e. other reported in NHS Borders? Please provide a breakdown for each year.
- 3) What is the number of surgical fires incidents related to alcoholic skin preparation agents specifically reported in NHS Borders's for the period 2010-2018? Please provide a breakdown for each year.
- 4) Can you please include additional details on the number of surgical fires incidents that resulted in an injury for the patient, i.e. burn reported in NHS Borders for the period 2010-2018? Please provide a breakdown for each year.
- 5) Can you please describe what prevention protocols are in place to avoid surgical fires accidents in NHS Borders? Please attach a copy of any protocols.
- 6) Does NHS Borders provide any prevention training courses for operating theatre healthcare professionals on surgical fires incidents? If so please provide details.

Response

1. Please find below the number of surgical fire incidents recorded in operating theatres within NHS Borders:

Year	Number of surgical fire adverse events
2010	0
2011	0
2012	1
2013	0
2014	0
2015	1
2016	0
2017	0
2018	1

2. Please find below the breakdown of the type of surgical fires incidents for the period 2010-2018:

Chemical ignition	0
Chemical related	0
Diathermy related	0
Equipment related-user error	3
Other	0

3. There were no surgical fires incidents related to alcoholic skin preparation agents specifically reported in NHS Borders for the period 2010-2018.
4. There were <5 surgical fires that resulted in an injury for the patient. Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of incidents is very small, and to provide further details of these 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.
5. Please find attached a copy of NHS Borders Fire Policy:



Management of Fire
Safety(Dec 2014) as

6. No specific training is provided to this identified group however detailed below is what mandatory fire training is delivered to all NHS Borders staff:
 - E-Learning Fire Safety module completed on an annual basis
 - General Fire Safety Training on an annual basis
 - Participation in an Annual Fire Drill and (within a clinical environment this is not practically possible, but it can be achieved by either a physical walkthrough of working environment or a table top exercise).

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 **545-18** 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.