

Freedom of Information request 552-18

Request

I am writing to you requesting your help and guidance in accessing information and data on the following points, pertaining to civil (non-criminal, non- forensic) Adult (aged 18 and above) inpatient psychiatric facilities:

1. The total number of patients admitted per year to psychiatric inpatient facilities, for the calendar year 1 Jan. 2016 to 31 Dec. 2016 (inclusive)
2. The total number of patients restrained in civil (non-criminal, non- forensic) Adult (aged 18 and above) inpatient psychiatric facilities
3. Of these restraint episodes, the average time of restraint in minutes
4. The legal status of those restrained, i.e. whether formal/informal/voluntary/involuntary
5. The age and gender of those restrained
6. The purpose of the restraint e.g medication administration/seclusion/person at risk of self-harm or violence
7. The average number of episodes of restraint per patient in psychiatric inpatient facilities
8. The average number of psychiatric beds occupied on an average day in 2016
9. The population served by these psychiatric inpatient facilities, and the age/gender breakdown of the population
10. The legal definition of restraint within your country's mental health system

Response

1. There were 431 patients admitted to psychiatric inpatient facilities within NHS Borders in the period requested.
2. There were 6 patients restrained in civil inpatient psychiatric facilities within NHS Borders in the period requested.
3. The length of time of the restraint is not recorded, therefore under Section 12 is not held.
4. The legal status of those restrained is not recorded, therefore under Section 12 is not held.
5. Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of patients 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.
6. The reason for all the restraints was in response to an episode of violence and aggression, to protect the safety and wellbeing of the patients and/or staff.

7. The average number of episodes of restraint for each patient restrained was 1.3.
8. The average number of beds occupied per day in 2016 was 55.
9. The estimated population of the NHS Borders area was 114,530. The table below shows the breakdown by age bracket and gender:

Age Range	Male	Female
Under 10	5,946	5,866
10-19	6,457	5,905
20-29	5,274	5,240
30-39	5,045	5,633
40-49	7,504	8,248
50-59	8,998	9,314
60-69	8,384	8,564
70-79	5,504	6,266
80-89	2,395	3,227
90+	309	751

10. The MWC definition of restraint is below:

3.2.1 Definition Physical restraint is the actual or threatened laying of hands on a person to stop him or her from either embarking on some movement or activity, or following it through. The grounds for intervention are that the person's action is likely to lead to hurt or harm to the person or others, or prevent necessary help being given.

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 **552-18** 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.