

Freedom of Information request 555-18

Request

Please provide:

- The number of rape and sexual assault allegations reported on mental health wards in your board area for each of the last five financial years individually (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/2018, 2018 to date). Please provide a breakdown of these allegations made by i) patients and ii) staff.
- The number of rape and sexual assault allegations reported on mental health wards in your board area that were subsequently reported to the police for each of the last five financial years individually (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/2018, 2018 to date).
- The number of reported breaches of your single-sex ward policy on mental health wards in your board area. Please provide this information for each of the last five financial years individually (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/2018, 2018 to date).
- Electronic copies of any documents which detail safeguarding policy or guidance regarding the steps that should be taken after a rape or sexual assault is reported on your mental health wards.

Response

- Please find below the number of rape and sexual assault allegations reported on mental health wards in the last 5 years:

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018 (up to 5/11/18)	
Allegations by Staff	<5	<5	7	<5	7	<5	24
Allegations by Patients	0	0	0	0	<5	0	<5

- None of the above incidents involved allegations of rape. The majority involved inappropriate behaviour/language where a contributing factor was the patients mental state/confusion. Therefore there were no reports to police required.
- NHS Borders does not have any single-sex wards in mental health.
- There are currently no specific policies regarding steps to be taken after a rape or sexual assault is reported on mental health wards. Staff always endeavour to support patients to report any crime or possible criminal behaviour experienced whilst an inpatient to the police if required.

As the number of events in some areas are very small and 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.

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 **555-18** 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.