

## Freedom of Information request 565-18

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### Request

Please answer the following questions under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

In 2012, a cross-government strategy was put together around preventing suicide.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-third-annual-report> This report identified that doctors and nurses had a 'particularly high' suicide risk compared to other occupational groups [see page 9]. I am interested only in data relating to nurses/nursing staff. For the purposes of this FOI, I define this to relate to those who hold a registered nursing qualification with the Nursing and Midwifery Council who are on Agenda for Change band 5 or upwards.

- 1) Please state the number of deaths in service [ie: during employment, but not necessarily on the premises or during working hours] of nursing staff employed by your organisation since 2012.
- 2) (i) Please state how many of the total deaths were recorded, known or otherwise suspected to be suicide?  
(ii) Please state what the different categories of cause of death were recorded as, for the purposes of the organisation's own reporting and recording. For example; cancer, heart failure, suicide etc.
- 3) Please include copies of any 'death in service' procedure or policy the organisation uses.
- 4) Please describe if there is any work in progress to address mental health needs or suicide risk among your nursing workforce, or alternatively where there have been suicides whether there have been any changes in workplace practices as a result?

### Response

1. There have been 6 deaths in service for Nursing & Midwifery staff since 1 April 2012.
2. i) There are no known or otherwise suspected suicides recorded.  
ii) This information is not recorded, therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this is not held.
3. Please find below a copy of NHS Borders Death in Service policy:



Death in Service  
Policy.pdf

4. Our commitment in the Staff Governance Action Plan is to implement a number of measures to address managing mental well being at work.

Our Workplace Well Being team launched in August 2018, "Working Health Matters", a group course to provide staff with coping skills for use in the work environment.

Proactive support available for line managers – mandatory training event entitled "managing mental wellbeing at work"

A pilot of a departmental stress & resilience training was undertaken earlier this year. Currently 47 staff have been trained in stress avoidance techniques over a three month period. We will be evaluating the success of this intervention to consider further roll out.

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 **565-18** 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.