

Freedom of Information request 578-18

Request

As part of their winter planning, boards often plan to open extra available, staffed, in-patient beds during winter to avoid excessively high occupancy rates. I would therefore like to know:

- a. Has your board made any assessment of how many extra, available, staffed, in-patient beds it will need to cope with demand this winter, and if so, how many have been calculated as required?
- b. Has your board increased its available staffed in-patient bed stock as appropriate to meet the forecast increased level of demand?
- c. Did your board increase the number of available staffed in-patient beds available last year during winter (2017), and if so, by how many?
- d. When were any extra available, staffed, in-patient beds from last winter (2017) closed?
- e. Does your board record occupancy levels, and if so, what were these for September this year (2018) and for September, December and January last year (2017)?

Response

- a) NHS Borders has made an assessment of how many inpatient beds will be required during the Winter of 2018/19. The number of beds required is based on the level of activity in 2017/18, which is predicted to be 370. This includes a 3% rise in activity.
- b) NHS Borders will be increasing their staffed inpatient beds to meet the forecasted increased level of demand. The Board has also put in place other initiatives to cope with the demand during winter 2018/19 and beyond. More detail is available in the published Winter Plan.
- c) NHS Borders increased the number of staffed inpatient beds during winter 2017/18 by 23 beds.
- d) The additional staffed inpatient beds have not been fully closed during 2017/18, having been used variably throughout the year during periods of high demand.
- e) NHS Borders does record occupancy levels. This is a measure that is regularly reported. As requested,

Month	Acute Adult Bed Occupancy	Community Hospital Bed Occupancy
September 2018	89%	92%
January 2017	98%	96%
September 2017	91%	96%
December 2017	97%	99%

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 **578-18** 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.