

## Freedom of Information request 597-18

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### Request

1. Can you tell me how many mixed sex wards the board currently has – ie wards where male and female patients are together. This would include wards which may have partitions to separate genders?
2. Can you please identify these wards and their departments?
3. Can you tell me how many patients have been put into mixed sex wards of this kind in the last two complete financial years, and so far this financial year?
4. Can you tell me what the board's policy is as regards mixed sex wards and when this policy was devised?
5. Has the board's policy position on mixed sex wards changed, and if so when did it change? (eg was there a time when mixed sex wards were forbidden and then were permitted again, and when did this change happen?)

### Response

1. All inpatient wards in BGH are mixed sex with the exception of Maternity areas. However each inpatient ward has bays specifically for male or female patients and these bays do not have mixed sex patients. The Community Hospitals also have no mixed sex bays.
2. These wards are:  
  
Wards 4, 5, MAU – Medical Wards  
Wards 7, 9 & 16- Surgical, Gynaecology and Orthopaedic  
Dept of Medicine for the Elderly 12 & 14  
Borders Stoke Unit & Margaret Kerr Palliative care ward
3. No patients have been put into mixed sex inpatient bays in the last 2 complete financial years. There were 8988 BGH adult admissions (based on patients aged 18 and over) to mixed gender wards in 2016'17 and 8414 in 2017'18.
4. NHS Borders do not have a single sex ward policy however we state on our Pre-Admission patient information booklet that patients will be cared for in single sex bays (not wards).
5. The Board has made no changes to the use of mixed sex wards to the best of my knowledge in the last 10 years.

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 **597-18** 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.