

Freedom of Information request 602-18

Request

For each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 please may you provide

1. The total number of adult (aged 17 and above) deaths within your Trust between 1st January and 31st December.
2. The number of Hospital (consent) autopsies carried out on adult (aged 17 and above) deaths which occurred between 1st January and 31st December.
3. The total number of paediatric (aged 16 and below) deaths within your Trust between 1st January and 31st December.
4. The number of Hospital (consent) autopsies carried out on paediatric (aged 16 and below) deaths which occurred between 1st January and 31st December.

Response

1. Please find below the number of adult (aged 17 and above) deaths between 1st January and 31st December in the years requested:

2014 – 758
2015 – 789
2016 – 757
2. NHS Borders do not carry out hospital autopsies therefore there were none carried out between 1st January and 31st December.
3. Please find below the number of paediatric (aged 16 and below) deaths between 1st January and 31st December in the years requested:

2014 – 0
2015 - <5
2016 - <5
4. NHS Borders do not carry out hospital autopsies therefore there were none carried out between 1st January and 31st December.

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of paediatric deaths per day is very small, and to provide further details of deaths 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.

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 **602-18** 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.