

Freedom of Information request 612-18

Request

In accordance with FOI, please provide figures for how many children (under 16) have been prescribed antidepressant medication in each of the last four years – 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Please provide the age of the youngest patient prescribed antidepressants.

Please provide the longest period a child was prescribed antidepressants for.

For the last year, please provide a breakdown of the types of antidepressants prescribed.

Response

1. The table below details the number of children under the age of 16 prescribed antidepressant medication in the specified years:

Financial Year	Patient Count
2014/15	65
2015/16	71
2016/17	68
2017/18	46

2. As NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of incidents is very small, and to provide further details of these such as the age of the youngest could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore withholding this information under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics whereby for 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](#).
3. We are unable to determine this information accurately from the data available. To collate this data would require a manual trawl of patient notes and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
4. For 2017/18, the types of antidepressants prescribed were:
 - Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors
 - Tricyclic & Related Antidepressant Drugs

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 **612-18** 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.