

Freedom of Information request 629-18

Request

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I would like to request the following:

- The number of patients who have been misdiagnosed in the last three years.
- Could you please provide details on the case - such as what the person was diagnosed with initially, and what they were actually suffering from/if they were found not to have been suffering from an illness.
- Could you also please break this down by year, and state how long a period went between the initial and final diagnosis.

Response

NHS Borders does not hold data on patients who have been given misdiagnoses on our electronic patient management system, this data may be available in a patient's notes but this would require a manual trawl of all records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002, therefore under Section 12 this data is not available.

Under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance we have provided below the number of complaints received that have been recorded as 'wrong diagnosis' for 2016/17 & 2017/18:

01/04/2016 – 31/04/2017 – 6 (2 upheld, 1 partly upheld and 3 not upheld)
01/04/2017 – 31/03/2018 – 10 (1 upheld, 4 partly upheld and 5 not upheld)
01/04/2018 – 30/11/2018 – 9 (5 upheld, 1 partly upheld, 2 not upheld and 1 complaint withdrawn by complainant)

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 **629-18** 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.