

Freedom of Information request 630-18

Request

I would like to request information under the Freedom of Information Act about post-acute service provision for adults in a Disorder of Consciousness (Vegetative State/Minimally Conscious State) following a severe brain injury within your health board.

- Can you tell me which services adults with a severe brain injury are admitted to within your health board for assessment and rehabilitation when they are discharged from the acute hospital setting?
- Can you tell me which rehabilitation services adults in a Disorder of Consciousness are admitted to within your health board for assessment and diagnosis when they are discharged from the acute hospital setting?
- Can you tell me how many adults in a Disorder of Consciousness were admitted to each service in 2016, 2017 and 2018?

To give some context to my request:

In England, following the acute phase, patients are admitted to Level 1 or 2 Specialist rehabilitation centres for assessment and management funded by NHS England. There are certain centres that regularly admit patients in a Disorder of Consciousness for up to 3 months before they are discharged to longer term care settings. A list of these services is readily available via the UK Rehabilitation Outcomes Collaborative.

Response

All adults in a Disorder of Consciousness following a severe brain injury would be transferred to the Astley Ainslie Hospital in Edinburgh (NHS Lothian) for assessment and rehabilitation. NHS Borders cannot provide this service. Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data would be accessible elsewhere.

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 **630-18** 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.