

## Freedom of Information request 639-18

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### Request

In your health board, how many people have been refused treatment from mental health services due to also having an alcohol or drug dependency issue in each year since 1999?

### Response

NHS Borders do not record this electronically, but our senior mental health service clinicians assure us that no-one would be refused treatment for a mental health disorder on the grounds that they also were dependent on alcohol or drugs. An important component of the treatment for their mental health disorder might include withdrawal and/or abstinence from alcohol or drugs but this would be done with support and supervision. Such information may be recorded in a patient's paper record but to retrieve this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the FOI(S)A 2002 and therefore we are not required to provide.

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 **639-18** 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.