

Freedom of Information request 130-19

Request

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

1. The number of people under the age of 20 who have been treated for stab wounds caused by a knife (or other sharp object) in the last three years.
Could you please break this down by age, if possible. If not, it would be good to have age bands for example, something like under 10, 11-14, under 16 etc.
2. The number of people under the age of 20 who have been treated for other injuries (such as slashing) caused by a knife or other sharp object in the last three years.
Could you please break this down by age, if possible. If not, it would be good to have age bands for example, something like under 10, 11-14, under 16 etc.
3. The number of people under the age of 20 who have died as a result of stab wounds caused by a knife (or other sharp object) in the last three years.
Could you please break this down by age, if possible. If not, it would be good to have age bands for example, something like under 10, 11-14, under 16 etc.

I understand that this request could through up difficulties in relation to injuries being sought, so if this is not possible - it would be great if you could supply all injuries including stabbing together.

Response

- 1&2. The table below outlines inpatients under the age of 20 with an injury caused by a knife or other sharp object between 2016 and 2018:

Injury Caused by Knife or Sharp Object	2016	2017	2018
X99 Assault By Sharp Object in Unspecified Place	<5	0	0
W26 Contact With Other Sharp Object(s)	0	<5	<5
W78 Intentional Self-Harm By Sharp Object in Unspecified Place	5	<5	<5
Total	6	<5	<5

As the number of events in some areas are very small, and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, for any number that is less than five actual numbers and potentially identifiable information such as age are withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

3. None

Please note that there are no Emergency Department attendances for patients under the age of 20 specifically coded as having involved a knife or sharp object, however these codes are not regularly recorded as a primary diagnosis within our A&E electronic system. This information may be held in a patient's notes but to extract this data 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 Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, 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.

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 **130-19** 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.