

Freedom of Information request 171-19

Request

I seek the following information on the Methadone and Buprenorphine prescriptions in the Borders from 2015 to 2019.

- 1) How many prescriptions for Methadone and Buprenorphine have you stopped since January 2015? Including the figures from the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Please include all with the exception of successful planned opiate free discharges.

- 2) How many prescriptions were stopped for 'non-compliance' which includes those stopped for using illegal drugs on top of their prescriptions or for those missing appointments? Please include these figures separately. Including the figures from the years, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- 3) How many of your patients are on optimised doses of methadone and buprenorphine as in line with clinical guidance? Including the figures from the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- 4) How many of your patients are on sub-optimised dosing (1ml-60ml) methadone? Including the figures from the years, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- 5) How many patients have been barred from your services in the last 3 years? (2016, 2017, 2018)
- 6) How many patients have died whilst in treatment (mediated and unmediated) please include all deaths and not just drug-related deaths? Including the figures from the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
 - a) How many of those that died in treatment were not prescribed methadone or buprenorphine at the time of their deaths? Including the figures from the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
 - b) Of those that died, how many were on a sub-optimised dose at the time of their death? Including the figures from the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- 7) Of the first 12 months of receiving treatment for drug addiction, how many patients have received therapeutic/holistic support (such as mental health support, trauma support, counselling, bereavement, therapeutic services etc) Including the figures from the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- 8) How many died within 12 months of leaving treatment?

Response

- 1) This information is not held by NHS Borders, therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide.
- 2) This information is not held by NHS Borders, therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we cannot provide.
- 3) This information is not held electronically, it may be held in a patient's record 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 and therefore we are not required to provide.
- 4) This information is not held electronically, it may be held in a patient's record 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 and therefore we are not required to provide.
- 5) No patients have been barred from services in the last 3 years.
- 6) Please find below the number of patients who have died whilst in treatment:

2015	<5
2016	<5
2017	<5
2018	9
2019	Not Available

- a) Please find below the number of patients that died in treatment that were not prescribed methadone or buprenorphine at the time of their deaths:

2015	0
2016	<5
2017	0
2018	<5
2019	Not Available

- b) We do not hold information on patients who were on a sub-optimised dose at the time of their death therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

- 7) All patients in service are offered patient centred holistic support.
- 8) Please find below the number of people who died within 12 months of leaving treatment:

2015	<5
2016	<5
2017	<5
2018	<5
2019	Not Available

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics 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](#).

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 **171-19** 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.