

## Freedom of Information request 175-19

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### Request

I would like to know:

1. How many cases of drug resistant infections (both bacterial and fungal) have there been at your NHS Board in each of the past five years (2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014)?
2. What were those infections?
3. How many of those infections resulted in deaths?

Please could you break the results down by year, rather than providing them as one number.

### CLARIFICATION RECEIVED:

The point of this question is to determine whether, in the wake of stories about so-called superbugs and drug-resistant fungi such as *Candida auris*, there is any truth to speculation that drug-resistant infections are on the rise, and if so, to what extent.

So, of course I am interested to know about the number of cases of so-called superbugs but I am also looking for trends of other, less well-documented, cases of antimicrobial drug resistance.

Therefore, ideally I would like data on all such relevant cases.

However, if this is impossible, then I would like the data as requested on cases of drug resistance in the following:

1. *Acinetobacter baumannii*, carbapenem-resistant
2. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, carbapenem-resistant
3. Enterobacteriaceae, carbapenem-resistant, ESBL-producing
4. *Enterococcus faecium*, vancomycin-resistant
5. *Staphylococcus aureus*, methicillin-resistant, vancomycin-intermediate and resistant
6. *Helicobacter pylori*, clarithromycin-resistant
7. *Campylobacter* spp., fluoroquinolone-resistant
8. Salmonellae, fluoroquinolone-resistant
9. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, cephalosporin-resistant, fluoroquinolone-resistant
10. *Candida Auris*

### Response

Increasing antibiotic resistance is evident worldwide. For the reasons previously given please find below data on the numbers of isolates and susceptibility testing of the relevant organisms from NHS Borders laboratory and cannot specify infections or deaths related to infections, under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

#### 1. *Acinetobacter baumannii*, carbapenem-resistant

- No cases in the specified years.

## **2. Pseudomonas aeruginosa, carbapenem-resistant**

- 2014 4 cases
- 2015 5 cases
- 2016 8 cases
- 2017 10 cases
- 2018 16 cases

## **3. Enterobacteriaceae, carbapenem-resistant, ESBL-producing**

- 2014 0 cases
- 2015 1 case
- 2016 3 cases
- 2017 0 cases
- 2018 1 case

## **4. Enterococcus faecium, vancomycin-resistant**

- 2014 6 cases
- 2015 8 cases
- 2016 10 cases
- 2017 8 cases
- 2018 10 cases

## **5. Staphylococcus aureus, methicillin-resistant, vancomycin-intermediate and resistant**

- No cases in the specified years.

## **6. Helicobacter pylori, clarithromycin-resistant**

- We do not perform culture for this organism.

## **7. Campylobacter spp., fluoroquinolone-resistant**

- We do not perform susceptibility testing on this organism routinely.

## **8. Salmonellae, fluoroquinolone-resistant**

- We do not perform susceptibility testing on this organism routinely. However one isolate from 2016 was fluoroquinolone resistant and two isolates from 2017 were resistant. Salmonella isolates are submitted to the reference laboratory.

## **9. Neisseria gonorrhoeae, cephalosporin-resistant, fluoroquinolone-resistant**

- Neisseria gonorrhoeae isolates are submitted to the reference laboratory for susceptibility testing.

## **10. Candida Auris**

- No cases in the specified years.

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 **175-19** 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.