

Freedom of Information request 203-19

Request

As you'll be aware the Chief Medical Officer issued a letter on 31st October 2018 about doctors being able to prescribe cannabis based products for medicinal use in Scotland – and elsewhere in the UK.

The letter states you (as a CDAO) have a statutory responsibility to secure the safe management and used of this drug – including the monitoring of prescribing, supplying and administration.

I'd like to ask your help. I'm trying to build a national picture of the number of patients who have been prescribed cannabis based products for medicinal use since the law changed last year.

Are you able to supply me the following information:

1. The number of patients prescribed these products since the law changed in 2018. Is it possible to have the data up until today? (30/04/19)
2. Are you able to tell me age brackets of patients prescribed these products?

Response

Information on the prescribing of unlicensed cannabis products for medicinal use in Scotland is not currently held by NHS Borders, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data cannot be provided.

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 **203-19** 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.