

Freedom of Information request 217-19

Request

Please find below a Freedom of Information request to your NHS Board on psychological support.

1. What psychological support is provided by the NHS Board for service users with neurological conditions such as muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular conditions? Is this provided by trained psychologists, counsellors or trained GPs?
2. How many service users with neurological conditions are on the waiting list for a first appointment for psychological support in the NHS Board area?
3. What is the average waiting time for service users with neurological conditions to access psychological support provided by the NHS Board?
4. Does the NHS Board have a programme available from diagnosis and at significant physical and life milestones to provide support for family members of people with neurological conditions?
5. How many psychologists in the NHS Board have the required knowledge and training to provide support for people with neurological conditions?

Response

1. NHS Borders has no access to therapeutic psychology for service users with neurological conditions. NHS Borders have Clinical Psychologists working within teams as detailed in question 5, however we do not have a Qualified Neuropsychologist. Consultant Neurologists within our Board area have to refer patients to Edinburgh to be seen if there is a clinical need.
2. Not applicable as we do not provide this service.
3. Not applicable,
4. No.
5. NHS Borders has:
 - 2 clinical psychologists who work with adults with Alcohol Related Brain Damage
 - 2 clinical psychologists who work in older adult services who work with progressive neurological conditions including dementias and parkinsons disease (occasionally seeing patients with epilepsy, MS & MND).
 - 1 clinical psychologist who works with adults who have chronic pain which may be due to a neurological condition.
 - 2 clinical psychologists who work in paediatrics with children who have neurological conditions.

Due to the lack of specialist clinical health psychology services in NHS Borders our psychologists working in community mental health teams may on occasions work with a patient with a neurological condition.

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 **217-19** 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.