

Freedom of Information request 461-19

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information on epilepsy:

1. Please can you provide the total number of specialist epilepsy nurses currently employed within your health board.
2. Please can you provide the total number of specialist epilepsy nurse posts, broken down by length of time vacant.
3. Please can you provide the a) longest and b) average waiting time, in each year since 2016, from being referred to receiving treatment.

Response

1. NHS Borders have 1 Specialist Nurse in Paediatrics but none in Adult services.
2. There is one Paediatric epilepsy nurse 30 hours (0.8WTE) in post with no vacancies.
3. NHS Borders cannot separate Adult Epilepsy waits from Neurology waits as they are on the same pathway, therefore under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance of the FOI(S)A 2002 please find below the longest and average waiting time for a neurology appointment since 2016:

Longest wait in weeks per year

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of weeks	39.7	35.6	29.0	18.7

Average wait in weeks per year

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of weeks	7.9	12.5	10.1	5.1

For paediatrics we have an identified consultant with special interest in epilepsy who the paediatric epilepsy nurse works alongside. Waiting lists for this service cannot be separated from the neurology patients that also see this consultant. Therefore under Section 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance of the FOI(S)A 2002 please find below the waiting times for this service below.

Maximum Days Wait				
Row Labels	2016	2017	2018	2019
Routine	77	63	71	59
Soon		21	4	
Urgent	49	28	18	72
Longest wait in days	77	63	71	72

Average Days Wait				
Row Labels	2016	2017	2018	2019
Routine	34	20	30	30
Soon		17	4	
Urgent	40	19	13	35
Average wait in days	35	20	23	31

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 **461-19** 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.