

Freedom of Information request 500-19

Request

In light of your response, I would like to ask the following further questions:

1. How many people receiving the NHS-funded counselling service provided by Rab Erskine in Haylodge health centre were consulted about the decision to end that service?
2. If no patients were consulted, why not?
3. Will the specialist mental health services available be provided in Peebles, just as the former counselling service (ended in September) was?
4. Will patients who were receiving the ceased counselling service at the point that it was ended be set up with the new specialist mental health services automatically? Or will they have to go back to their GP and ask for a new referral?
5. If a new GP referral is required, will those patients be subject to the normal waiting lists for specialist mental health services?
6. How long are current waiting lists for specialist mental health services?
7. If patients who were receiving the ceased counselling service at the point that it was ended must wait to access the new services, what assessment has been made of the impact of such a wait on their mental health?

Response

1. This information is not recorded, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this cannot be provided.
2. This information is not recorded, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this cannot be provided.
3. The full range of specialist mental health services provided by the NHS Borders West Community Mental Health Team – which covers the Peebles area – includes psychiatry, psychology, psychological therapies, Occupational Therapy and Mental Health Social Work. We try to deliver these services locally, but this is dependent upon the type of treatment required. In addition, patients can self-refer or be referred by their GP into the Wellbeing Service, which is also available in Peebles.
4. Exact circumstances may differ between patients depending upon treatment required, but it is possible that some patients may need a referral from their GP for further treatment from secondary care services.
5. If a new GP referral is required then the patient would be subject to normal waiting lists.
6. Waiting lists would depend upon the particular services that the patient is being referred to. Most patients for Mental Health services are seen within 18 weeks. There is no waiting list in Peebles for the Wellbeing Service at present and patients would be likely to be offered an appointment the same week that they are referred.
7. If the patient is receiving treatment under primary care services, they will have the responsibility to refer the patient to secondary care services if required

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 **500-19** 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.