

## Freedom of Information request 18-20

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### Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide separate information for each of your hospitals/facilities providing mental health inpatient services:

1. Is the hospital smokefree (i.e. does not allow smoking anywhere on hospital grounds) and, if yes, what date did this happen?
2. How many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave for each separate calendar year since 2000 (or for each year you have information)?
3. Of these, how many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave to have a cigarette or where the report mentions cigarettes for each separate calendar year since 2000 (or for each year you have information)?
4. When looking at all incident reports (not just those in which a patient absconded), how many incident reports mentioned "smoking", "smoke", "cigarette" or "lighter" a) in 2017, b) in 2018 and c) in 2019?

### Clarification Received:

By "leave" I mean a period of time outside the hospital grounds approved by a member of staff. For example, it might be several hours or 15 minutes for some fresh air, escorted by two nurses. I'd be looking for information on those who fail to return when expected, while on such leave.

### Response

1. NHS Borders Tobacco Policy covers all sites including the acute hospital site which includes in-patient mental health wards and Community Hospitals since 2014. The Policy provides for 'smokefree' across all sites and areas since 2014. Smoking is permitted in the designated external smoking area for mental health in-patients under exceptional circumstances. Therefore we are not entirely 'smokefree'.
2. NHS Borders incident recording system (Datix) does not record the leave of patients therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 the data regarding an absconsion on leave is not held.
3. Not applicable. This data is not held.
4. Please find below data held regarding incidents where the term "smoking", "smoke", "cigarette" or "lighter" is within the description. Please note this data may not solely include tobacco events and could relate to other events:

	2017	2018	2019
<b>Smoking</b>	51	202	348
<b>Smoke</b>	37	156	349
<b>Cigarette</b>	37	139	170
<b>Lighter</b>	7	23	14

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 **18-20** 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.