

## Freedom of Information request 66-20

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### Request

I am working on a piece for BBC Scotland about mental health support services available to the deaf community.

Are you able to tell me:

1. How many British Sign Language trained counsellors are employed by NHS Borders- Can you breakdown to show staff working on a contact, full time and part time and also breakdown by hospital?
2. How many freelance British Sign Language trained counsellors work at NHS Borders. Can you breakdown to show staff working on a contact, full time and part time and also breakdown by hospital?
3. Over the last five years, how many individuals have been referred to British Sign Language counselling services- please break down by financial years, 15/16, 16/17, 17/18, 18/19, 19/20?
4. Over the last five years, how many individuals were on waiting lists for appointments with British Sign Language counsellors- please break down by financial years, 15/16, 16/17, 17/18, 18/19, 19/20. If this information cannot be provided, are you able to provide me with a current waiting list, and a breakdown of how long each person has been on it?

### Response

1. NHS Borders do not employ any British Sign Language trained counsellors.
2. NHS Borders do not employ any freelance British Sign Language trained counsellors.
3. NHS Borders do not hold any record of an individual having been referred to BSL counselling in the years requested.
4. Not applicable.

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 **66-20** 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.