

Freedom of Information request 113-20

Request

In your health board what are the outpatient waiting times for a patients to be seen for Glaucoma treatment, in each of the last five calendar years, broken down by:

- (i) How many patients are on the waiting list?
- (ii) What are the average and longest waits for patients?
- (iii) How many patients have waited over the 12 week waiting time target?
- (iv) How many patients have waited over a year?
- (v) What is the waiting time for a new patient?

Also, how many Glaucoma Consultants and how many consultant vacancies do you have in your health board?

Response

Please note that it is not possible to separate Glaucoma patients from general patients on the waiting list. Under Section 15 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Duty to provide advice and assistance, figures are provided below that are inclusive of general and Glaucoma patients.

- (i) There are currently 121 patients on the general Ophthalmology waiting list.
- (ii) The table below details the average and longest waits in each year between 2015 and 2019:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average Wait (Weeks)	4	3	5	4	8
Longest Wait (Weeks)	33	16	24	39	35

- (iii) The table below details the number of patients that waited longer than the 12 week target in each year between 2015 and 2019:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. Waiting Over 12 Weeks	10	9	418	146	325

- (iv) No patients waited longer than a year for their appointment between 2015 and 2019.
- (v) The current waiting time for a new patient appointment is approximately 8 weeks.

NHS Borders does not have specialist Glaucoma Consultants, and there are no consultant vacancies at present.

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 **113-20** 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.