

Freedom of Information request 170-20

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information about in-patient mental health care during coronavirus:

1. Within the in-patient facilities that fall under your remit, how many patients have contracted coronavirus and/or are suspected to have contracted coronavirus? Of that number, how many have died?

Please provide data over the broadest timeframe you can, within the cost limits of the Freedom of Information Act. Please also provide dates of patients' deaths. If that would identify them, please provide the week they died or, if that would still identify them, the month. I understand that most patients with severe coronavirus will have been transferred to acute units, if that helps with your search. Please also provide me with a rough figure of the total number of in-patients your facilities support.

2. Since 1 March, what policies/procedures have your in-patient facilities put in place to deal with coronavirus? Please provide dates of enactment. Such policies/procedures might include (but are not limited to): asking providers to release patients early where possible; cancelling leave for in-patients; suspending advocacy services; stopping legal hearings; preventing patient readmissions; separating patients (whether through segregation or other forms). In situations where patients were released early, please, if possible, provide a total number. I understand that some policies may have been enacted and then retracted, therefore please provide dates for when they came into effect and were undone. Please also provide documentation, where possible, for the relevant policies/procedures.
3. Since 1 March, what guidance have you received from NHS Scotland, the Scottish Government, and the UK's Department of Health and Social Care around how to manage coronavirus within in-patient mental health settings? Please provide the documentation you received, be it emails or formal documents, and the dates when you received it.

Response

1. As of 6 May 2020 no mental health in-patient has contracted coronavirus within the NHS Borders area.
2. Please find below a copy of policies/protocols put in place within Mental Health to deal with the coronavirus pandemic:



Huntlyburn Electric
Corridor SOP - Covid.



Management MH



MH Contacting
Doctor OOH - Covid.



MH LDS Testing -
Covid.pdf


MH OOH
Prescriptions - Covid.


MH Support - East
Brig - Covid.pdf


MH Swab Testing -
Covid.pdf


MH Support -
Melburn - Covid.pdf

3. NHS Borders use guidance provided by Health Protection Scotland within inpatient wards, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible at the following links below. Guidance continues to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. All out of date guidance emails are disposed of and no longer held, therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we are unable to provide. Up to date guidance is provided at the following site and includes dates.

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-residential-settings/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-secondary-care/>

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 **170-20** 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.