

Freedom of Information request 197-20

Request

I would like to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, please.

It concerns the transfer of NHS Borders patients from hospitals into care homes in the UK. The time-frame of interest is from February 28 until today (June 4).

The questions are as follows:

1. Concerning care homes which have received hospital patients, how many patients have been sent to each one? Please state the name of each care home concerned.
2. In the case of each care home mentioned above, on what date was the first patient received? And when was the most recent transfer?
3. For each care home, how many of the former hospital patients have – before being transferred to the care home – (a) tested positive for coronavirus; (b) tested negative for coronavirus?
4. For each care home, how many of the former hospital patients were not tested for coronavirus before being transferred to the care home?
5. For each care home that has received hospital patients, how many of that care home's residents have later been moved to another care home? Please state the name of each care home concerned (i.e. first care home - and second care home, etc).

Response

Details for transfers to care homes for the period requested are included within the attached document covering answers to questions 1 – 4.



FOI Data 197-20
Final - Redacted.pdf

1. In total, there have been 142 transfers to 29 care homes (including 8 transfers where the care home was not recorded).
- 2-4 Revised guidance on testing for care home transfers was issued by the Scottish Government on 26 April. We have therefore split the data between transfers before 26 April, and transfers following 26 April.
- Between 28 February and 25 April 2020, there were 82 transfers of which 68 patients were not tested prior to transfer. 12 were tested negative and 2 had previously tested positive, but were transferred more than 3 weeks after last positive test (i.e. after infectious period).
 - Between 26 April and 4 June 2020, there were 60 transfers, all of whom were tested. 58 patients tested negative prior to discharge. This includes 6 patients who had tested positive for Coronavirus on admission to hospital but had at least 2 negative tests before transfer to a Care Home. 2 further patients were transferred following a positive test; however both of these patients were admitted from a care home with Covid and were transferred back to their care home with care home agreement as the most suitable place for their care.

5. NHS Borders does not hold information on moves between care homes in response to question 5. Therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is not held.

Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 Duty to provide advice and assistance please see copy of report attached that was prepared for NHS Borders Gold Command Covid Committee on the analysis of discharges to Care Homes.



Discharge to Care
Homes Report.pdf

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of discharges is very small, and to provide further details of these could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol.

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 **197-20** 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.