

## Freedom of Information request 208-20

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### Request

Under FOI legislation can I please request the following, for your health board:

1. The number of clinical laboratories in your health board?
2. The number of staff in each clinical laboratory in your health board since January 2020 till present. Broken down by month and clinical laboratory?
3. The typical shift pattern for staff at each clinical laboratory in March 2020 and April 2020?
4. Staff absence levels in your clinical laboratories due to stress or sickness of COVID-19?
5. Copies of any plans to hire new staff at your clinical laboratories?

### Response

1. There is one clinical laboratory within NHS Borders.
2. Please find below the number of staff as per request:

BMS – Biomedical Scientist MLA - Medical Laboratory Assistant

- January 2020 9 x BMS, 2 x MLA
- February 2020 9 x BMS, 2 x MLA
- March 2020 9 x BMS, 2 x MLA
- April 2020 8 x BMS, 2 x MLA
- May 2020 8 x BMS, 2 x MLA, 3 x Bank MLA
- June 2020 9 x BMS, 2 x MLA, 2 x Bank MLA

3. Please find below the typical shift pattern for staff within the clinical laboratory:
  - March 2020 - all working 9am-5pm Monday to Friday plus on call, 2 x BMS and 1 x MLA Saturday morning plus on call, 1 x BMS Sunday morning plus on call
  - April 2020 – 1 x BMS working 7am-3pm, the rest working 9am-5pm Monday to Friday plus on call, Saturday morning plus on call, 1 x BMS Sunday morning plus on call
4. None
5. This information is not held, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data cannot be provided.

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 **208-20** 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.