

Freedom of Information request 261-20

Request

1) How many serious adverse events has the health board recorded in the last five years broken down by year?

Clarification Received:

We are looking for numbers on each adverse event category as listed below.

NEGLIGIBLE
MINOR
MODERATE
MAJOR
EXTREME
Category I - events that may have contributed to or resulted in permanent harm, for example unexpected death, intervention required to sustain life, severe financial loss (£>1m), ongoing national adverse publicity (likely to be graded as major or extreme impact on NHSScotland risk assessment matrix or category G, H or I on National Coordinating Council for Medical Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP) index
Category II – events that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm, for example initial or prolonged treatment, intervention or monitoring required, temporary loss of service, significant financial loss, adverse publicity (likely to be graded as minor or moderate impact on NHSScotland risk assessment matrix, or Category E or F on NCC MERP index)
Category III – events that had the potential to cause harm but no harm occurred, for example near miss events (by either chance or intervention) or low impact events where an error occurred, but no harm resulted (likely to be graded as a minor or negligible on NHSScotland risk matrix or Category A, B, C or D on NCC MERP index)

2) Details of each serious adverse event recorded by the health board between June 2019 and July 2020, with any personal information redacted.

Clarification Received:

We are looking for the details of each event such as what the event was, what action was required etc. but with any personal or identifying information removed as to protect the privacy of those involved.

Response

1) The table below provides a breakdown of all actual adverse events recorded on NHS Borders Adverse Event Recording System (Datix) by financial year (01 April – 31 March). During the 2019/20 year there are 11 adverse events on the system that have no grading assigned to them but represent actual adverse events.

Financial Year	Grading of Adverse Event				
	Category 2 & 3 Events			Category 1 Events	
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
2015/2016	3279	2038	595	50	9
2016/2017	3014	2106	749	73	24
2017/2018	2979	2145	716	59	20
2018/2019	2857	2142	684	47	38
2019/2020	2566	1833	429	44	15

- 2) In response to the request 'what the event was' the table below provides information relating to the 'type of adverse event' for the financial year 2019/2020 (01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020) and then for the additional period from 01 April 2020 - 30 June 2020. Due to the large numbers of events this involves, and that it would require a manual trawl of each one individually to ascertain the actions required, it is not possible to provide this response; therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 we are not required to provide:

Type of Adverse Event	2019/2020	01/04/20 – 30/06/20
Absconson/Self Harming Behaviour	131	29
Access/Appointment/Admission /Transfer/Discharge	188	45
Aggression & Violence/Personal Safety	877	154
Buildings, Utilities, Grounds, Environment	28	1
Child Health Event	8	2
Consent Issues	5	1
Contamination/Exposures	24	8
Damage to Property/Personal Property	20	3
Data Protection/Confidentiality/Copyright	113	20
Equipment Issues	77	12
Fall/Slip/Trip	1292	261
Fire	27	12
Health Records	112	21
Infection Control Event	46	26
Investigation, Diagnosis & Treatment Problems	210	43
Medication Event	431	10
Moving & Handling	71	7
Needlestick/Sharp/Bite	80	10
Nutrition	31	6
Obstetric Event	54	22
Patient Experience Event	62	10
Procedure Problems	67	12
Pressure Damage	337	67
Security Issues	58	6
Staffing Level	134	6
Tobacco/Alcohol/Illicit Substance Event	239	19
Transfusion Related Event	13	5
Transport Event	38	5
Other Event	105	36
Unexpected Death	9	3

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 **261-20** 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.

