

Freedom of Information request 275-20

Request

1. In your health board what are the outpatient waiting times for a patients to be seen for Ophthalmology treatment, in each of the last five financial years, including this year, 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?
2. Also, how many Ophthalmology Consultants and how many consultant vacancies do you have in your health board?

Response

1. Please find below data as per request:

- i) Patients on the Waiting List as at 1st April each year:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number on Waiting List	363	403	680	593	663

- ii) Average Wait of patients:

	No of Weeks
2015'16	4
2016'17	1
2017'18	1
2018'19	2
2019'20	2

Longest Wait:

	No of Weeks
2015'16	18
2016'17	54
2017'18	49
2018'19	38
2019'20	30

- iii) Patients who waited over 12 weeks:

	No of Patients
2015'16	51
2016'17	860
2017'18	1304
2018'19	1057
2019'20	806

iv) Number of Patients who waited over 1 year:

	No of Patients
2015'16	0
2016'17	<5
2017'18	0
2018'19	0
2019'20	0

v) It is not possible to give an accurate figure for waiting times for a new patient in this current pandemic situation, therefore this data is not held.

2. Ophthalmology Consultants working in NHS Borders are employed by NHS Lothian. Therefore under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this information is otherwise accessible.

As the number of events in some areas are very small and 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 **275-20** 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.