

Freedom of Information request 328-20

Request

I would like to request the following information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2002

1. Please could I be provided the total number for absconding in patients from the last 5 years from all hospitals in the trust?
2. Please could you also identify the wards that have had absconding in patients from the last 5 years?
3. What is the average cost to the trust for compensations as a result of absconding patients?
4. Could you also please provide the contact details of the person/group responsible for management of absconding patients?

Absconding – a person that is an inpatient at one of the trust hospitals that has left the ward without informing a staff member. Making them a missing person

Response

1. The table below provides the total number of inpatients who actually absconded over the last 5 years by calendar year across all NHS Borders Hospitals. This information has been obtained from NHS Borders Electronic Adverse Event Recording System (Datix).

Year	Total Number
2015	68
2016	39
2017	66
2018	99
2019	52

2. Please find below this data per ward:

Year	Medical	Surgical	DME	Paeds	Obs & Gynae	Palliative	Critical Care	Mental Health	Comm Hospital Ward	Totals
2015	11	0	<5	<5	0	0	0	18	36	68
2016	11	<5	<5	0	<5	0	0	7	15	39
2017	9	7	8	<5	<5	<5	<5	16	19	66
2018	6	<5	5	0	0	0	0	48	32	99
2019	13	0	<5	0	0	0	0	35	<5	52

3. NHS Borders has received no claims for compensation in relation to absconding patients.
4. Point of contact for NHS Borders - Peter Lerpiniere, Associate Director of Nursing for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

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 **328-20** 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.