

Freedom of Information request 340-20

Request

I request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

1. The total number of people who used a needle exchange in your area from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2019, broken down by year
2. The total number of people who registered at a needle exchange as using an image enhancing drug, performance enhancing drug or anabolic steroid, during the same period, broken down by year

Response

1. Due to the nature of the Injecting Equipment Providers (IEP) service individuals are not required to provide their details as this is a confidential and anonymous service, however they are asked to use a unique number which some users may change. Data is not recorded and collated on an individual patient identifiable form. Therefore we do not hold definitive records of the total number of people who used a needle exchange in the Borders area.

Information on all IEP services (including IPEDs) is published annually by Public Health Scotland at the following link with the most recent publication on 28 July 2020 <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/lifestyle-and-behaviours/substance-use/injecting-equipment-provision-in-scotland/> Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

This data is published annually in the form of "Official Statistics" and has been published since 2009. As these are official statistics, this allows trends to be monitored and population estimates to be made. There have been a number of changes in the way the data is collected over last 10 years and the impact these have on the data are all outlined in the annual publications.

2. As above.

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 **340-20** 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.