

Freedom of Information request 361-20

Request

- 1) Can you tell me how many doctors Police Scotland can call on from your health board area for the medical examination of alleged victims of sexual crime, both children and adults?
- 2) How many of these doctors are women, and are there women available in your area should a victim of rape, or the parent of a child reporting current/recent sexual abuse, request a female medic?
- 3) What measures, if any, have been taken in recent years to encourage women doctors to take on this work?
- 4) Assuming there is a list of medics willing, qualified and available to carry out this work, what are the specialisms of the doctors who examine victims of sexual crime, and in particular are any of them pathologists?
- 5) How many of the police photographers in your area who work alongside the medics to record injuries and other evidence are women?
- 6) Are you aware of any cases in your area in the past five years where a woman who has been raped, or the parent of a child who has been sexually assaulted has declined to continue with their complaint because a female medic was not available to conduct the forensic examination?
- 7) How many forensic medical examinations linked to allegations of sexual crime in your area have been carried out in each of the last five years - from 2015-16 to 2019-20 - and how many of them were conducted by female doctors?

Response

1. Forensic Medical Examinations (FME's) for adults are carried out by NHS Lothian Forensic Medical Service on behalf of NHS Borders. Therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.

For children NHS Borders has one consultant to conduct FME's.

2. The NHS Borders' consultant who conducts FME's on children is female. For adults this information would only be available from NHS Lothian, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.
3. There is no data held by NHS Borders but may be held by NHS Lothian, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.
4. There is no data held by NHS Borders but may be held by NHS Lothian, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.
5. This information is not held by NHS Borders but would be accessible from Police Scotland, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.

6. All examinations of children and young people during this time period were conducted by female doctors and therefore this has not occurred. There is no data held by NHS Borders on cases of adults but may be held by NHS Lothian, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.
7. There have been approximately 70 children and young people examined from 2015 to date . All were conducted by female doctors. There is no data held by NHS Borders on adult examinations but may be held by NHS Lothian, therefore under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is held elsewhere.

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 **361-20** 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.