

## Freedom of Information request 424-20

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### Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with responses to the following:

A list of all Serious Incidents Requiring Investigation (these include all incidents recorded as SIRIs or SIs and also including anything still referred to as a "never event" or "serious untoward incidents") that occurred in hospitals concerning a patient with coronavirus or suspected to have coronavirus, since its outbreak (or please take March 1st as a start date). Please provide a log of this information, broken down by department and hospital, the month of the incident, a brief description of what happened (e.g. coronavirus patient left in side room and not checked on and died) including the outcome or consequence for the patient, and any investigation outcome known.

In Scotland these are known as Significant Adverse Event Reviews (SAERs), please provide a response accordingly. For clarification on SIRIs in England, the terms 'serious incident requiring investigation (SIRI)', 'serious incident (SI)' or 'serious untoward incident (SUI)' are often used interchangeably. This NHS England document may be helpful: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/serious-incident-framework-upd.pdf>

I have attached an example of a previous SIRI/SI response as a guide for a response. Please send me the data requested in the form of an Excel spreadsheet or as a csv file, using the template provided.



FOI Never Events  
and SUIs.xlsx

### Response

Within NHS Borders there was <5 Significant Adverse Events relating to a patient with, or suspected of having, Coronavirus that required a Significant Adverse Event Review (SAER) since 1 March 2020. Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of events is very small, and to provide further details of these could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also 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](mailto: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 **424-20** 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.