

Freedom of Information request 487-20

Request

Staffing

1. How many qualified staff are available to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme?
2. How many qualified staff are required to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme?
3. If there are not enough staff currently available, where will the staff required be recruited from? How many staff will be moved from frontline services to deliver the vaccine, and what impact will this have on primary healthcare services?
4. What discussions have taken place with the Scottish Government on the regulations that qualify staff to administer the vaccine?

Delivery

5. Are you confident you have sufficient storage capacity, including any specialist equipment required, to hold enough supplies for any vaccination programme?
6. How will the vaccine be distributed from central storage facilities to sites where the vaccine will be administered?
 - a. Specifically, how will the vaccine be delivered in care homes; GP practices; vulnerable people receiving care in the community; NHS staff?
7. What discussions have taken place with Scottish Government on the availability and operation of mobile vaccination teams?

Scottish Government Support

8. What communication has taken place so far with Scottish Government on the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme?
9. What other challenges do you anticipate facing in delivering vaccinations, and what support has been made available from Scottish Government to overcome those challenges?

Response

1. There are currently 56 vaccinators available to support the programme, please note this is number of individuals not WTE.

Please note that this will change as the service evolves and more vaccinators are brought onboard.

2. The Scottish Government currently estimate that NHS Borders require between 28 and 36 WTE vaccinators to deliver the programme. This is subject to change as planning evolves.
3. Additional staff are being trained to support the vaccination workforce; this includes existing staff who are working overtime and staff where their usual service is operating at reduced capacity. Retired staff are being offered temporary contracts.
4. Discussions have taken place as part of the weekly national covid vaccination planning forum.

5. Yes
6. Our local transport hub will transport the vaccines to required locations.
 - a. 'Care home' – vaccines will be delivered by our district nursing teams.
 - b. 'GP Practice' – still to be agreed.
 - c. 'Vulnerable people receiving care in the community' – if housebound, patients will receive their vaccination at home likely by district nursing teams, if ambulatory they will receive their vaccination at a community location.
 - d. 'NHS staff' – vaccines will be administered at dedicated clinics at the Borders General Hospital.
7. Discussions have taken place as part of the weekly national covid vaccination planning forum. SG has provided a 'Service Delivery Manual' for consideration in our local planning; this includes the provision of mobile vaccination teams.
8. Weekly national covid vaccination planning forums, led by the national team. In addition, regular communication of information via dedicated Teams channel and email. A number of returns providing information on our plans to date have also been submitted.
9. The current challenges NHS Borders anticipate facing are:
 - Workforce – resource to administer the vaccinations but also the wider resource to support the planning and operational delivery of the programme. No specific support requested.
 - Patient, public and stakeholder expectations – expectation that there will be a nationally communications plan.
 - Government expectations on pace of delivery, changing parameters and the multiple requests for information surrounding the programme. No specific support requested.
 - Availability of devices to record vaccinations on the national vaccine app in community locations where connectivity may not be possible – national provision of AIM enabled devices.

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 **487-20** 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.