

Freedom of Information request 509-20

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to acquire the following:

1. Any internal correspondence (including emails, letters and phone records) and briefings within NHS Borders on the topic of Borders General Hospital, timeframe limited to between 1 December 2020 and present day.
2.
 - a. What is the COVID-19 testing regime for hospital staff within the health board?
 - b. How many staff have been tested from November to present day for COVID-19, broken down by week if possible please?
3. Any complaints to the health board about COVID-19 secure procedures in Borders General Hospital. Can complaints be broken down to a) those from staff B) those from the general public?

Response

1. Please note that as we did not receive further clarification in response to our request to narrow the parameters of this question we are unable to comply due to the large volume of data that would be involved and the time required to process the data prior to release. Therefore under Section 12 of the FOI(S)A 2002 Cost of Compliance we are unable to provide this data.
2. a) Symptomatic staff are PCR tested via the NHS Borders COVID-19 Testing Team.

Weekly asymptomatic PCR testing is offered to all staff working in eligible areas as defined by Scottish Government guidance.

Twice weekly asymptomatic lateral flow device (LTD) testing is in the process of being rolled out to all patient facing healthcare workers in line with Scottish Government guidance.

b) Please note the data below relates to testing carried out by the NHS Borders COVID-19 Testing Team only and does not include testing carried out via other testing routes. This is the data recorded and held by NHS Borders for staff Covid-19 testing:

w/c 02.11.20 = 157
w/c 09.11.20 = 156
w/c 16.11.20 = 154
w/c 23.11.20 = 159
w/c 30.11.20 = 158
w/c 07.12.20 = 244
w/c 14.12.20 = 275
w/c 21.12.20 = 155
w/c 28.12.20 = 214
w/c 04.01.21 = 190

Total = 1862

3. There has been one complaint received by NHS Borders regarding Covid-19 secure procedures in the period 1 – 24 December 2020 from a member of the public, there are no recorded complaints from staff.

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 **509-20** 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.