

## Freedom of Information request 21-21

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### Request

I am doing research surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic around mainly deaths. Would you be kind enough to please supply me under the freedom of information act the number of deaths in the Borders where COVID-19 is the only cause of death mentioned on the death certificate?

### Response

Between 1 March 2020 and 17 January 2021, 34 patients died in NHS Borders hospitals where the only cause of death was coded and recorded by NHS Borders as COVID-19.

Please note that as the number of events is very small and in accordance with the Official Code of Practice for Official Statistics for numbers less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information are withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available on 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 **21-21** 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.