

Freedom of Information request 113-21

Request

I wish to request the following information via freedom of information legislation.

1. The numbers of “urgent suspicion of cancer” referrals sent to Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery units each month 2019 & 2020.
2. The number of operations for cancer performed by Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery units in each month 2019 & 2020.

Response

1. Attached is data for the number of Oral/Maxillofacial “urgent suspicion of cancer” referrals received directly by NHS Borders in each of the years requested. Cancer referrals are not seen in NHS Borders but forwarded on to our specialist centre for Head and Neck cancer at St Johns Hospital in Livingston.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
2019	7	8	8	9	10	8	5	8	8	7	10	<5	92
2020	<5	11	12	<5	7	<5	7	6	<5	<5	5	11	75
Grand Total	11	19	20	12	17	10	12	14	11	11	15	15	167

2. As noted, NHS Border does not perform cancer operations for oral/maxillofacial patients. Patients are referred to our Head & Neck specialist centre at St Johns Hospital in Livingston for assessment and treatment. On that basis, NHS Borders performed no head and neck cancer operations in each of the years in question.

As the number of events in some areas are very small and 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.

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 **113-21** 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.