

Freedom of Information request 193-21

Request

1. Can you please provide the total number of deaths that occurred within the NHS Borders Board, where a positive PSR Covid-19 test was taken within 28 days of the persons death.

Can you please provide this information by date (including a total for 2020 and 2021) from February 2020 to todays date (24/5/2021).

Can you please provide this information in 5 year age group bands

2. Can you please provide the total number of deaths that occurred within the NHS Borders Board, where a positive PSR Covid-19 test was taken within 28 days of the persons death AND Covid-19 was the sole cause of death listed on the deceased's death certificate

Can you please provide this information by date (including a total for 2020 and 2021) from February 2020 to todays date (24/5/2021).

Can you please provide this information in 5 year age group bands

CLARIFICATION:

I am asking for all patients that have been treated by NHS Borders Health Board – I appreciate that you may not readily have access to wider information to patients that have died in care home settings or at home. However, if you do have this information, I would appreciate both sets of data.

Note also that in my original FOI on 24/5/2021 I made a typo by referencing PCR test as PSR. I have corrected that below.

Response

1. There have been a total of 71 inpatient deaths within NHS Borders hospitals where the patient died within 28 days of having had a positive Covid-19 PCR Test. Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board and the number of deaths by date is small, to provide further details could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore presenting the data by month:

Month	Number
Feb-20	0
Mar-20	10
Apr-20	22
May-20	<5
Jun-20	0
Jul-20	0
Aug-20	0
Sep-20	0
Oct-20	<5
Nov-20	<5
Dec-20	13
2020 Total	52

Month	Number
Jan-21	14
Feb-21	5
Mar-21	0
Apr-21	0
May-21	0
2021 Total	19

Age Group	Number
<40	0
40-44	0
45-49	<5
50-54	0
55-59	<5
60-64	<5
65-69	5
70-74	11
75-79	8
80-84	17
85-89	8
90-94	12
94-99	<5
100+	0
Total	71

2. There have been a total of 7 inpatient deaths within NHS Borders hospitals where the patient died within 28 days of having had a positive Covid-19 PCR Test, where the sole cause of death recorded on National Register Scotland is recorded as 'U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified is assigned to a disease diagnosis of COVID-19 confirmed by laboratory testing'. Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board and the number of deaths by date is very small, to provide further details could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore presenting the data by year:

Year	Number
2020	5

Year	Number
2021	<5

Age Group	Number
<40	0
40-44	0
45-49	0
50-54	0
55-59	<5
60-64	0
65-69	<5
70-74	<5
75-79	0
80-84	0
85-89	<5
90-94	<5
94-99	<5
100+	0
Total	7

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 **193-21** 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.