

Freedom of Information request 219-21

Request

I'd like to make a freedom of information request about the number of available beds at the health board please.

- 1) Could you tell me the total number of available beds across all your hospitals in April 2018, April 2019, April 2020 and April 2021?
- 2) Could you tell me the total number of available beds dividing it up by hospital and department or ward, for example beds at A&E at a particular hospital, in April 2018, April 2019, April 2020, and April 2021.
- 3) Were there any beds that were unavailable for any reason in April 2018, April 2019, April 2020 and April 2021? Could you give a number and divide it up by hospital and department or ward?
- 4) Could you tell me average waiting times at the health board in April 2018, April 2019, April 2020 and April 2021?
- 5) Could you tell me average waiting times divided up by hospital and department for April 2018, April 2019, April 2020 and April 2021?
- 6) Were beds removed at any hospitals for social distancing? Could you tell me which hospital, when this happened and how many beds were removed?

Response

1, 2 & 3. Please see the information requested in questions 1, 2 and 3 in the attached spreadsheet:



FOI 219-21
Response.xlsx

4. & 5. See the average waiting times below, please note the NHS Borders has one hospital, Borders General Hospital, and these times are for there:



FOI 219-21 Waiting Times Report 2018.p
FOI 219-21 Waiting Times Report 2019.p
FOI 219-21 Waiting Times Report 2020.p
FOI 219-21 Waiting Times Report 2021.p

6. At Borders General Hospital, the numbers of beds in multi-occupancy bays were reduced during the early stages of the pandemic as occupancy allowed. This increased social distancing in patient bays. As admissions into the hospital increased following the initial surge in COVID-19 cases last Spring, our occupancy increased and so did the numbers of patients in multi occupancy bays, however we do not hold data on when specific bays were reduced and therefore the number of beds that were removed is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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 **219-21** 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.