

## Freedom of Information request 20-22

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### Request

1. The number of people admitted to hospital with hypothermia/with hypothermia as a contributing factor, broken down by month, since 2016.
2. The number of people who died where hypothermia was the main cause or a contributing factor.
3. The ages of those people, in the groupings of:
  - Under 18
  - 18-39
  - 40-64
  - 65-79 and
  - Over 80

### Response

1. Please see the table below for the number of people admitted to hospital with hypothermia or with hypothermia as a contributing factor from 2016 to 2021:

Year	Under 18	18-39	40-64	65-79	80 and over	Total
2016	0	0	<5	0	<5	5
2017	<5	0	0	<5	<5	<5
2018	0	0	<5	<5	5	9
2019	0	<5	<5	<5	6	10
2020	<5	0	<5	0	5	9
2021	0	<5	0	<5	<5	6

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board and the number of patients is very small, to break this down by month could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore unable to break this data down further than is provided under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics that 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.

2. Between 2016 and 2021 there have been 7 deaths where hypothermia was the main cause or a contributing factor at NHS Borders.
3. All patients who died where hypothermia was the main cause or a contributing factor between 2016 and 2021 were 80 or over.

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 **20-22** 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.