

Freedom of Information request 36-22

Request

1. Can you provide me with information relating to waiting lists for orthopaedic surgery?
2. How many patients in your area are waiting for hip or knee replacement surgery?
3. What is the average length of waiting time at the moment compared with the timescales pre-Covid and how long will it take to clear the backlog even without any further patients being added?
4. Given the average numbers who are added to the lists each month, what is the realistic projection of waiting times for patients who are not deemed emergency cases?

Response

1. There are currently 938 patients awaiting surgery under Orthopaedic Surgery Inpatient or Day Case Treatment.
2. There are 238 patients waiting for hip replacements and 243 patients waiting for knee Replacements.
3. The current estimated waiting time for Orthopaedic Surgery admission for surgery is around 103 weeks; this is based on the actual waits patients experienced in December 2021. Before Covid-19 this was around 14 weeks on average.
We cannot answer “how long will it take to clear the backlog” as this question is invalid. The Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002, provides a right of access to the information we hold. It does not require the public authority to express opinions, make suppositions or draw conclusions.
4. This request is invalid. The Freedom of information (Scotland) Act 2002, provides a right of access to the information we hold. It does not require the public authority to express opinions, make suppositions or draw conclusions.

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 **36-22** 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.