

## Freedom of Information request 91-22

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### Request

In each of the following years – 2019, 2020 and 2021 – how many bariatric operations of any type were carried out by or commissioned\* by NHS Borders

(\*where cost was covered by NHS Borders but patient was referred to another health board/trust/private hospital)

### Response

As a general hospital NHS Borders does not carry out Bariatric Surgery within local facilities. NHS Borders commissions external providers to provide Bariatric Surgery for those patients meeting the local criteria through the Specialist Weight Management Team. Please see the table below for the number of patients commissioned to external providers between 2019 and 2021:

Procedure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22(to Jan 22)
Bariatric Surgery	<5	<5	<5

Please note: this data is recorded by financial year.

As NHS Borders is such a small Board and the number of patients 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 withholding all other data under Section 38(1)(b) 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.

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 **91-22** 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.