

## Freedom of Information request 109-22

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### Request

1. In this health board, how many consultant positions are vacant at the time of writing? Please provide the data broken down by consultant doctors and dentists in the NHS.
2. In this health board, how many consultant positions were vacant at the 31 March 2021? Please provide the data for the financial years ending 31 March 2020, 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018. Please also provide the data broken down by consultant doctors and dentists in the NHS.
3. In this health board, taking into account the financial year 2021-22 (so far), 2020-21, 2019-20 and 2018-19 and 2017-18, how long has it taken on average to fill vacancies for consultant positions? Please provide the data broken down by consultant doctors and dentists in the NHS.

### Response

1. There are 8.10 Whole Time Equivalent consultant vacancies at NHS Borders. We do not employ Consultant Dentists.
2. Please note this information is available on the NHS Scotland Workforce website, therefore under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information please find a link to the web page below:

<https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-march-2022-workforce/dashboards/nhsscotland-workforce/?pageid=6429>

3. This information has only been calculated since June 2021 at NHS Borders, the data from 2017 to June 2021 is therefore not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

From June 2021 to 28 February 2022, the average length of time taken between date of advertising Consultant positions and start date is 132 working days.

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 **109-22** 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.