

Freedom of Information request 156-22

Request

I am looking for information regarding the number of patients who have been classed as a failed discharge. I'm not sure if your Health Board uses this definition? In short, I want to know if patients have been discharged and then subsequently readmitted in a short period of time. As such, can I request the following:

- 1) A breakdown of the number of patients who were classified as a failed discharge in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (if this term is used) OR the number of patients who were discharged and then readmitted after 1 to 7 days with a breakdown for the same period.
- 2) The hospital and ward in which they were discharged and then admitted to.
- 3) The length of stay when readmitted.

Response

Please see our response below:



FOI 156-22
Response.xlsx

As NHS Borders is such a small Board and the number of patients in some areas 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 which states 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.

Please note

- The attached contains information on acute hospital (for Borders General Hospital) 7 day readmissions from January 2019 to date.
- The first table shows the numbers of 7 day readmission by admission specialty as we cannot provide ward data for this.
- In the second table the figures are broken down by the previous admission specialty and what the specialty was on readmission.
- For length of stay (LOS) at readmission we have shown the total LOS since readmission for all cases and also by specialty for each year.

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 **156-22** 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.