

Freedom of Information request 159-22

Request

I would be grateful if you could tell me the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

- How many people are currently on the waiting list for gender affirming surgery under your health board
- A breakdown of how many people are on the waiting list for gender affirming surgery, broken down into these categories:
 - 1) gender affirming surgery, male to female
 - 2) gender affirming surgery, female to male
 - 3) chest reconstruction surgery
 - 4) repair surgery

Can this information be listed for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 please?

(I am aware that this surgery is carried out in England).

- Please can this be broken down into the number of people on the waiting list for any of these surgeries at the moment (as there may be some on the waiting list from previous years who are still waiting to be seen).
- Finally, please can I ask for the average wait time for these surgeries at this present time.

Response

NHS Borders does not perform gender affirming surgery, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

NHS Borders patients requiring gender affirming surgery are referred from a Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) to one of the nationally approved providers for care and therefore under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information please note NHS Borders' tertiary provider of care, which includes the local GIC for our patients, is NHS Lothian.

Following the Scottish pathways and criteria in place, gender procedures are funded and managed through National Services Scotland.

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 **159-22** 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.