

Freedom of Information request 180-22

Request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. These questions relate to Long Covid and are as follows:

1. What provision is made by your health board for the diagnosis and treatment of Long Covid?
2. Do you have specialist clinics available specifically for the treatment of Long Covid?
3. Do you have a clearly defined clinical pathway for the treatment of Long Covid and if so, what is that?
4. How many patients have been treated for Long Covid so far?
5. Of the £10m announced for Long Covid in September 2021, how much have you received so far?
6. How much did you spend specifically on the treatment of Long Covid in 2021/22.
7. How many of your staff are currently absent from work due to Long Covid.

Response

1. NHS Borders provision for the diagnosis and treatment of Long Covid is as per Scotland's Long Covid Service, this long-term condition is identified in Primary Care, with onward referral as per clinical picture/symptoms. Treatment is carried out by existing healthcare professionals, with inclusion of Third Sector partners including CHSS as appropriate.
2. NHS Borders has no specialist clinics for the management of patients with Long Covid however we do have 1.5 days Clinical Health & a Neuropsychologist (currently on Maternity leave) funded following Cossette report, for those hospitalised with Covid. Other referrals are being made to various specialties including dietetics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and Speech & Language therapy.
3. NHS Borders follow NHS Scotland's Long Covid Service Clinical pathway.
4. The number of patients recorded as having been treated for Long Covid within secondary care to date is detailed below:

Within Rehab, 62 referrals have been made to Respiratory Physiotherapy to date with 32 discharged, 11 ongoing, and 17 yet to be assessed. Referrals are also being made to Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy and Dietetics, as well as the screening being carried out within Clinical Psychology.
5. To date NHS Borders has not received an allocation specific to Long Covid.
6. NHS Borders does not hold data for the specific cost of treatment of Long Covid, therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data cannot be provided.
7. As at 20 April 2022 there was 8 staff absent within NHS Borders due to Long Covid.

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 **180-22** 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.