

## Freedom of Information request 216-22

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### Request and Response

1. The average wait time since January 2021 for accessing the below sexual health services:

- Implant insertion and removal (new or repeat) - 2 weeks
- Coil/IUD insertion and removal (new or repeat) - 4 weeks
- Repeat or new pills prescription - 0-1 week
- Sexual health screening (symptomatic) - 0-1 week
- Sexual health screening (no symptoms) - 0-1 week
- Specialised clinics for young people -  
We don't offer a specialised service for young people. Young people are seen as a priority either at the next available clinic appointment or in Urgent Care if required.

2. The current number of staff vacancies in sexual health facing roles in family planning clinics and in the sexual health department.

There are currently no vacancies

3. Of cancers in people as a result of a cervical screen, the average time since January 1st 2021 between a cervical screening appointment and a cervical cancer diagnosis

Screening test at GP's – send to lab to process – referral for appointment at Colposcopy who take a biopsy = 42 days

(Assumption: in our cancer audit - the date of diagnosis is the date the biopsy was taken at the Colposcopy/Gynae appointment).

4. The average time since January 1st 2021 between a cervical cancer diagnosis and starting treatment.

12.5 days

5. The uptake of cervical screens as a percentage in 2019:

ISD provide the statistics for the national screening programmes and they are available to the public online, but are broken down by age groupings and have a different reporting period to that requested. Locally only quarterly reports are available, but cover the period requested which average 80.3% uptake for Borders in 2019:

Q1 2019 = 80.42%

Q2 2019 = 80.50%

Q3 2019 = 80.22%

Q4 2019 = 80.05%

6. The uptake percentage now since the resumption of cervical screens services post Covid-19.

Non routine screening resumed in July 2020 and routine in September 2020. ISD national reports do not cover this reporting period specifically, so I have provided locally available reports which are only available quarterly:

Qtr Jul/Aug/Sep 2020 = 78.84%

Qtr Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 = 78.55%

Qtr Jan/Feb/Mar 2021 = 78.69%  
Qtr Apr/May/Jun 2021 = 79.98%  
Qtr Jul/Aug/Sep 2021 = 78.85%  
Qtr Oct/Nov/Dec 2021 = 78.21%  
Qtr Jan/Feb/Mar 2022 = report not yet available.

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 **216-22** 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.