

Freedom of Information request 273-22

Request

1. In this health board, what is the total number of clinical staff currently on sick leave? Please provide this data as a number and as a percentage of the total number of clinical staff in the health board. Where staff are currently on sick leave, please provide the reasons for their absence e.g. Covid, burnout, stress, mental health, illness.
2. In this health board, what is the total number of clinical staff waiting to access Occupational Health Services? Please provide this data as a number and as a percentage of the total number of clinical staff in the health board. Where clinical staff have requested an appointment with Occupational Health Services, please provide the reasons for their absence e.g. Covid, burnout, stress, mental health, illness.
3. In this health board, during 2022/23 so far, what is the average waiting time for members of clinical staff to access Occupational Health? Please provide the average waiting time and the longest waiting time. Please also provide the data for the financial years 2021/22, 2020/21, 2019/20, 2018/19 and 2017/18.

Response

1. As at the current time 92 clinical staff were on sick leave which equates to 3.62% of total number of clinical staff in the Board. The reasons are shown below:

Absence/Reason Description	Number
Anxiety/stress/depression/other psychiatric illnesses	16
Medical Illness	16
Bereavement	<5
Compassionate	<5
Coronavirus	31
Injury, fracture	8
Other known causes - not otherwise classified	5
Musculoskeletal problems	9
Unknown causes/not specified	5
Total	92

2. There are 40 clinical staff currently awaiting access to Occupational Health and all have an appointment booked for June/July 2022; this equates to 1.5% of total number of clinical staff in the Board. The reason for absence is clarified at appointment therefore we do not hold this data at this point in time.
3. The average and maximum waits for Occupational Health are:

Year	Average Waiting Time (working days)	Maximum waiting time (working Days)
2022/23	2	29
2021/22	5	57
2020/21	13	74
2019/20	12	48
2018/19	16	63
2017/18	22	95

Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of deaths per day is very small, and to provide further details of deaths 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(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics 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.

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 **273-22** 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.