

Freedom of Information request 381-22

Request

1. In this health board, are smallpox vaccinations available and being rolled out to those deemed at highest risk from monkeypox?
2. In this health board, if the smallpox vaccination is being rolled out, please confirm which groups have been deemed at highest risk from monkeypox.
3. In this health board, if the smallpox vaccination is being rolled out to those deemed at highest risk from monkeypox, please confirm how many vaccinations have been administered and the date of the first vaccination.
4. In this health board, if the smallpox vaccination is being rolled out to those deemed at highest risk from monkeypox, please confirm whether there is an ambition to further roll out the vaccination programme to other groups, subject to supply.
5. Where there is an ambition to further roll out the smallpox vaccination to other groups, please outline the anticipated timetable of this programme, subject to supply

Response

1. Yes, the vaccination is being rolled out by NHS Borders to those at the highest risk of Monkeypox.
2. NHS Borders is offering the vaccination to individuals identifying as gay or bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and who are at higher risk of exposure, as well as a small number of healthcare workers who work in high-risk settings. This is in line with the CMO letter dated 18 July 2022 (SGHD/CMO(2022)29) CMO(2022)29 - Monkeypox (MPX) pre and post exposure vaccination (scot.nhs.uk) As vaccine stocks are limited at this time, the highest risk individuals and geographical areas with highest transmission are being prioritised in order to maximise impact on transmission and control of the outbreak.
3. PHS is planning to make this information available at national level based on information extracted from NaSH. We would not plan to release data at NHS board level under Section 38(2)(ii) due to considerations of deductive disclosure with small numbers. Currently information at Latest update on monkeypox in Scotland - News - Public Health Scotland outlines just the number of doses that have been allocated to Scotland.
4. The vaccine is being procured by UKHSA on behalf of the UK and then allocated to areas where it can be deployed most effectively to limit the transmission of virus. Due to global demand for the vaccine and limitations on the number that can be manufactured, there is limited supply.
5. We are unable to give a timetable for further roll out the smallpox vaccination to other groups, due to uncertainty of supply.

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 **381-22** 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.