

Freedom of Information request 388-22

Request

1. How many additional hospital beds were opened as part of surge capacity / winter planning during autumn /winter 21/22?
2. How many of these beds had closed by August 1 2022
3. How many of these beds are continuing to provide additional capacity for patients now?
4. On top of these beds, how many surge beds does the board anticipate including in the winter plan/ surge capacity plan for winter 2022/23?

Response

1. NHS Borders opened 24 additional hospital beds as part of surge capacity / winter planning during autumn / winter 2021/22. A further 22 beds were opened intermittently depending on the demand and for specific capacity issues e.g. COVID ward.
2. By 1 August 2022, NHS Borders had closed 22 of these beds.
3. All additional beds continue to provide additional capacity for patients currently.
4. NHS Borders does not anticipate including any additional surge beds in acute services as there is no additional capacity due to a lack of readily available estate. Winter planning is currently being progressed with the Integrated Joint Board.

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 **388-22** 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.