

Freedom of Information request 408-22

Request

I am looking for information regarding the number of people admitted to an Emergency Department due to alcohol-related reasons. As such, can you provide the following:

1. The total number of patients admitted, discharged, or transferred to an A&E department for alcohol-related reasons/ excessive alcohol consumption, in the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)?
2. The total number of patients admitted, discharged, or transferred to an A&E department with alcohol-related injuries, in the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)?
3. How many patients admitted, discharged, or transferred to an A&E department for alcohol-related reasons/ excessive alcohol consumption, in the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) were under 18 years of age?
4. The number of times stomach pumping procedures (gastric lavage or gastric irrigation) were performed on:
 - a) all patients admitted to an A&E department for alcohol-related reasons/ excessive alcohol consumption and
 - b) those patients who were under 18 years of age, in the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)?
5. What is the procedure if someone arrives at A&E due to alcohol-related reasons/ excessive alcohol consumption?

Response

1. The total number of NHS Borders patients admitted, discharged, or transferred to an A&E department for alcohol-related reasons / excessive alcohol consumption are as follows:

2020 / 2021	518
2021 / 2022	613
01.04.22 – 28.08.22	261

2. This information is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.

3. The number of NHS Borders patients under 18 years of age admitted, discharged, or transferred to an A&E department for alcohol-related reasons/ excessive alcohol consumption are as follows:

2020 / 2021	43
2021 / 2022	47
01.04.22 – 28.08.22	12

4. This information is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.
5. There is no specific procedure if someone arrives at NHS Borders Emergency Department (ED) due to alcohol-related reasons / excessive alcohol consumption. However, a full assessment of the patient would be conducted, including diagnostics to inform the diagnosis and any treatment indicated. There would be observations carried out until the patient recovers. The patient may have all their stay in ED and then be discharged. There would also be an assessment of the ongoing needs of the patient which may include referral to specialist services as an outpatient.

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 **408-22** 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.