

Freedom of Information request 409-22

Request

1. In the 2022 calendar year so far, how many requests has this health board made for mutual aid from another health board? Please also provide the data for the 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 calendar years.
2. In the 2022 calendar year so far, how many requests for mutual aid from this health board have resulted in a mutual aid agreement with another health board? Please outline the nature of any such mutual aid agreements, for example what type of mutual aid is being provided; the scale of the mutual aid being provided; the duration of the mutual aid being provided; and the supporting health board. Please also provide the data for the 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 calendar years.
3. Where a mutual aid agreement is in place, what is the criteria for its activation? Please outline if the criteria is standardised across all mutual aid agreements, or whether it is specific to each mutual aid agreement. If the criteria for activation is standardised across all agreements, please also outline whether this criteria has changed at all over the last five calendar years.
4. In the 2022 calendar year so far, on how many occasions have mutual aid agreements been activated? Please outline the nature of support being provided under the activated agreement, for example what type of mutual aid is being provided; the scale of the mutual aid being provided; the duration of the mutual aid being provided; and the supporting health board. Please also provide the data for the 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 calendar years.

Response

1. The number of requests made by NHS Borders for mutual aid from another Health Board are:

2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	1
2021	0
2022 - to August	0

2. The one mutual aid request shown in Q1 has resulted in the following mutual aid agreements:

Year	Number of mutual aid agreements	Mutual Aid	Scale	Start Date	Duration	Supporting Health Board
2017	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	1	Reprocessing of re-usable surgical instrument sets and supplementary items in the event of loss of energy, flood, fire or similar major disaster	To be discussed and agreed before acceptance by the Service Provider to undertake the work	01-Dec-20	5 years	NHS Lothian
2021	1	Reprocessing of re-usable surgical instrument sets and supplementary items in the event of loss of energy, flood, fire or similar major disaster	To be discussed and agreed before acceptance by the Service Provider to undertake the work	01-Sep-21	5 years	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
2022 - to August	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3. The criterion for activation of a mutual aid agreement is standard across both agreements and have not been changed.

4. Mutual aid agreements have been activated by NHS Borders as follows:

Year	Number of mutual aid agreements activated	Mutual Aid type	Scale	Start Date	Duration	Supporting Health Board
2017	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	1	Sterilising of theatre instruments	Reprocessing of re-usable surgical instrument sets and supplementary items	17-Jul-20	19-Aug-20	NHS Lothian
2021	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022 - to August	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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 **409-22** 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.