

Freedom of Information request 416-22

Request

Topic: International nurses coming in to BGH to relieve pressure

Having read the Borders Telegraph article dated 23rd April regarding the employment of 'international nurses' to relieve pressure on the NHS, I would like the following information:

1. On which visas were these nurses brought into the UK?
2. Which English test for that visa (e.g. A1, B1 Skilled worker etc) was sat by the nurses?
3. While protecting anonymity, what were the test results in this English exam for each nurse? Specifically, what were the threshold marks required to pass each part, Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening? And how did each international nurse score against these threshold marks? E.g. For the B1 skilled worker visa a candidate must reach the threshold of 35 marks out of 50 in each element. Were these nurses required to sit an English exam at all?

Response

1. Tier and Category of visa: Tier 2 Skilled Worker.
2. International Nurses, like any other Nurses in UK, must to possess full registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Registered Nurses must evidence a level of proficiency in English language. Full details, including which tests are exempted, what are the minimum expected results, exemptions etc. are in the following imbedded file:



language-requirements-NMC.pdf

3. All International Nurses employed by NHS Borders have achieved met the English language criteria as defined by NMC in the file above.

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 **416-22** 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.