

## Freedom of Information request 418-22

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### Request

1. In this health board, what was the longest wait in the Accident and Emergency department(s) during the month of August 2022\*? Please express this answer in hours and minutes. Please also provide the data for every other elapsed month in the 2022 calendar year (i.e. January-July 2022). Further to this, please provide the longest wait in Accident and Emergency during every month of the 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017 calendar years. If this health board has more than one Accident and Emergency department, please ensure you outline where the longest wait occurred in each instance.

2. In this health board, what is the intended capacity\*\* of the Accident and Emergency department(s)?

3. In this health board, how many times has the intended capacity of the Accident and Emergency department(s) been exceeded so far in the 2022 calendar year? Please outline the date(s) on which this occurred. Please also provide the data for the 2021, 2020 and 2019 calendar years.

4. In this health board, where the intended capacity of the Accident and Emergency department(s) has been exceeded so far in the 2022 calendar year, please outline by how much the intended capacity was exceeded, and on what date(s) this occurred. For example, if the intended capacity of the department was 40 patients, but the department supported 120 patients at a given point on the 20th July, the intended capacity would have been exceeded by 80 patients on that date. Please express your answer in numerical terms, as above. If on one day intended capacity was exceeded for an extended period of time, please respond by outlining the moment where intended capacity was exceeded by the greatest number of patients. Please also provide the data for the 2021, 2020 and 2019 calendar years.

5. In this health board, where the intended capacity of the Accident and Emergency department(s) has been exceeded so far in the 2022 calendar year, please explain how patients were managed, for example, were they placed on trolleys or on the floor in hospital corridors? Please also provide the data, broken down by month, for the 2021, 2020 and 2019 calendar years.

\*The deadline for responding to this request will be late September, so I expect you will be able to provide me with the data for August 2022 by then. If this is likely to be a problem, please let me know promptly, so I can request the data for August separately on 1 September.

\*\* For the purposes of clarity, I am defining intended capacity as follows: 'the number of patients the Accident and Emergency department was designed for care for at any one time'. For example, NHS Lothian's director for acute services told the Times on 19 August that the intended capacity of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh's emergency department was designed to care for 40 patients at a time.

### Response

1. Please find attached a spreadsheet with the data as per request:



Q1 data 418-22.xlsx

2. As NHS Borders do not have a specific intended capacity we have used the following methodology:

Capacity at any one time in the funded would be -

3 x resus rooms

11 x cubicles

Totalling 14 – if we then say every patient will stay 4 hours then our capacity in any one day would be  $14 \times 6 = 84$ .

To try and work out each hour in each day for the data request would exceed the timeframe allowed.

3. In 2022 to date the daily capacity based on the estimate above has been exceeded 94 times. Further data is shown in the spreadsheet attached in Q4.

4. Please find attached a spreadsheet with the data as per request:



Q3 & 4 data  
418-22.xlsx

5. Within NHS Borders patients are placed on trolleys and beds as appropriate in main ED and additional capacity adjacent to ED used for surge and patients who are waiting for an admission bed.

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](mailto: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 **418-22** 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.