

## Freedom of Information request 435-22

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### Request

- 1) In this health board, what plans are in place to resume breast cancer screening services for over 70s?
- 2) In this health board, what is the projected start date for the resumption of breast cancer screening services for over 70s?
- 3) In this health board, what is the total number of women aged over 70 who have requested an appointment with the breast cancer screening service when services resume?
- 4) In this health board, for those women aged over 70 requesting an appointment with breast cancer screening services, what is the first date available for an appointment?
- 5) In this health board, for those women aged over 70 requesting an appointment with breast cancer screening services, what is the average projected waiting time?
- 6) In this health board, for those women aged over 70 requesting an appointment with breast cancer screening services, what is the longest projected waiting time?

### Response

1. From 29th August, eligible groups of women over the age of 70 will be able to register for self-referral appointments by contacting their local breast screening service. Invitations will begin issuing to the eligible groups from 26th September, with appointments commencing from 24th October.

At this stage, the eligible groups being prioritised for self-referrals are women aged 71 to 74 (+364 days), and women over 75 with a history of breast cancer who have completed their hospital follow up. This phased approach allows self-referrals to restart in a way we hope will not unduly impact on waiting times for women aged 50-70 for whom screening is recommended.

The impact of the restart on programme capacity and wait times will be monitored closely. At the same time, the programme will continue to look for opportunities to increase the number of available appointments.

2. See response to Q1.
3. Breast screening is a national screening programme delivered by the South-East Scotland Breast Screening Service and they hold the data requested. Therefore, under Section 25 of the FOI(S)A 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.
4. See response to Q1 & Q3.
5. See response to Q3.
6. See response to Q3.

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 **435-22** 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.