

Freedom of Information request 467-22

Request

1. The number of patients who have been sexually assaulted while at one of your NHS facilities per calendar year from 2017 to present day.
2. The number of patients who have been physically assaulted (other violence) while at one of your NHS facilities per calendar year from 2017 to present day.
3. Descriptions of assault events from 2017 to present day. Categorised by: Assault due to medical condition, No weapon assault, Weapon assault, Unintentional assault.
4. Anonymous descriptions of sexual assault events from 2017 to present day.

Response

1. The number of patients who have been sexually assaulted while at an NHS Borders facility is shown below:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 - to August
<5	0	0	0	<5	<5

2. The number of patients who have been physically assaulted while at an NHS Borders facility is shown below:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 - to August
126	103	55	48	73	30

3. The categorised events within NHS Borders are shown below:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 - to August
Medical Condition	91	75	32	35	26	19
No Weapon Assault	125	102	55	48	73	30
Weapon Assault	<5	<5	0	0	0	0
Unintentional Assault	This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.					

4. Please note that as NHS Borders is such a small Board the number of incidents is very small, and to provide further details of these could allow individuals to be identified and we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018. We are therefore withholding all other data under Section 38(2)(ii) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This is also in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

As the number of events in some areas are very small and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics any number that is less than five, actual numbers and potentially identifiable information is withheld to help maintain patient confidentiality due to potential risk of disclosure. Further information is available in the [ISD Statistical Disclosure Control Protocol](#).

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 **467-22** 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.