

## Freedom of Information request 489-22

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### Request

1. Please supply details of how many times patients with learning disabilities or mental health problems who are either detained under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 or who require to be nursed under specific "observation" levels have gone missing from your Adult Mental Health services in the year 2022?
2. Please specify how many fall into each of your HB's risk categories?
3. Please also specify out of this total how many times police were called to carry out a search?
4. Please also provide details for the above questions for the year's 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

### Response

Please find below the responses for questions 1, 3 and 4 for NHS Borders:

Year	Number of times a detained patient has absconded	Number of times Police have been called to search for absconded detained patients
2017	<5	0
2018	9	<5
2019	<5	<5
2020	5	0
2021	<5	<5
2022 to September	<5	<5

2. All events where a detained patient has absconded are recorded in the NHS Borders Adverse Events management system in the risk category "Absconsion".

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](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 **489-22** 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.