

## Freedom of Information request 495-22

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### Request

1. How many people in the Borders region are estimated to have Long Covid? How was this figure arrived at?
2. The Scottish Government announced that it has set aside £millions in a Long Covid Support Fund to help Health Boards treat sufferers in their region. How much has NHS Borders applied for and received from this Fund? If none has been applied for or received, what are the reasons for this?
3. What guidance have Borders GPs been given on identifying treatment pathways for their Long Covid patients?
4. Of monies received from the Fund (if any) how much of it has been spent to date? What has it been spent on, e.g. referrals to specialist care? How many Long Covid patients have benefited from this?
5. Does NHS Borders monitor the outcomes from expenditure of Fund monies? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
6. Does NHS Borders intend to apply for further monies from the Fund?

### Response

1. NHS Borders does not currently record the number of people with Long Covid, therefore under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is not held. Estimations may be available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), therefore please note under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 FOI(S)A 2022 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information, please find a link to the ONS <https://www.ons.gov.uk>.
2. NHS Borders received circa £60K for the first year of funding, but there has been national agreement to top-slice this to allow for a national approach to digital aspects of the pathway.
3. NHS Borders follow NHS Scotland's Long Covid Service Clinical Pathway however, all GP Practices in the Scottish Borders are independent contractors and not managed by NHS Borders. This information can be accessed by contacting the GP Practices directly, therefore please note under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A information on all GP practices within the Borders area is available at: <http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/a-z/g/>
4. NHS Borders does not hold data for the specific cost of treatment for Long Covid, This information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
5. NHS Borders does not currently monitor the outcomes from expenditure of fund monies. However, national data sets are in draft stage, and these will ultimately be used by all Boards.
6. NHS Borders has received the allocated proportion of the fund as calculated by the NHS Scotland Resource Allocation Committee (NRAC) and there is not an option to apply for further monies.

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 **495-22** 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.