

Freedom of Information request 544-22

Request

1. I would like to know why NHS Borders is informing people that they no longer offer assessments for ADHD and Autism to adults?
2. I would like to know, also, who the consultant psychiatrist is for the East and West team please?

Response

1. The NHS Borders Mental Health Team is still experiencing pressure from the Covid-19 backlog and demand for the Neurodevelopmental Disorder assessment is exceeding our supply. This has resulted in unacceptable waiting times. Therefore, the Mental Health Clinical Board and NHS Borders Board Executive Team have carefully considered solutions to overcome these problems with the aim to prioritise patients requiring assessment and support. As a result, we are reinforcing our existing referral criteria. This means some patients waiting will not meet the criteria and therefore will not be assessed or be seen by the Adult Community Mental Health Team. Those that meet the criteria for ADHD will be assessed. Those that have been referred to NHS Borders and meet the criteria for Autism can be assessed by Autism Initiatives and/or NHS Borders if clinically required.
2. The Consultant Psychiatrist for the East Community Mental Health Team is Dr Bindhu Abraham. The Consultant Psychiatrist for the West Community Mental Health team is Dr Jess Sussman.

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 **544-22** 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.