

## Freedom of Information request 573-22

### Request

1. What is the longest period of time someone has been waiting to start cancer treatment after referral in this health board? Please provide this figure for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far.
2. How many people have not been treated in the 62 day target in this health board? Please provide this figure for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far.
3. In relation to question 2, how many of these people died as a result of cancer?
4. Please provide this data for all kinds of cancer, but also break it down by breast, prostate, lung and bowel cancer.

### Response

1. The longest period of time someone waited to start cancer treatment after referral in NHS Borders is:

| Longest wait (number of days) |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| 2018                          | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| 208                           | 177  | 248  | 159  | 184  |

2. The number of people not treated within the 62 days target in NHS Borders is:

| Number of people |      |      |      |      |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| 2018             | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| 16               | 25   | 20   | 21   | 11   |

3. NHS Borders do not record this information, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
4. The longest times waited in days and the number of affected people for each of the specified Cancer types are:

| Cancer Type | 2018 |        | 2019 |        | 2020 |        | 2021 |        | 2022 |        |
|-------------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
|             | Days | People | Days | People | Days | People | Days | People | Days | People |
| Breast      | 96   | <5     | 88   | <5     | 62   | 0      | 61   | 0      | 61   | 0      |
| Colorectal  | 108  | 5      | 119  | 13     | 88   | <5     | 140  | 8      | 105  | <5     |
| Lung        | 82   | 0      | 100  | 0      | 116  | <5     | 61   | 0      | 62   | 0      |
| Prostate    | 208  | 7      | 177  | 6      | 248  | 9      | 159  | 13     | 153  | 6      |

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](#).

Please note: for each of the data sets above, all patients eligible for the 62 days standard are included. Also, for 2022 data, this is complete to the end of September 2022.

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 **573-22** 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.