

Freedom of Information request 616-22

Request

1. The average wait time since January A)2022 B)2021 C)2020 D)2019 for accessing the below sexual health services.
 - I. Implant insertion and removal (new or repeat)
 - II. Coil/IUD insertion and removal (new or repeat)
 - III. Repeat or new pills prescription
 - IV. Sexual health screening (symptomatic)
 - V. Sexual health screening (no symptoms)
 - VI. Specialised clinics for young people
2. What percentage of the budget has been allocated to sexual health services in years
 - VII. 2018
 - VIII. 2019
 - IX. 2020
 - X. 2021
 - XI. 2022
3. The current number of vacancies in sexual and reproductive health facing roles in both family planning clinics and the sexual health department.
4. Are there any buildings or services in the sexual health department that were cut or repurposed during the Covid 19 pandemic that have not been returned or reopened to the sexual health department.
5. Of cancers in people found as a result of a cervical screen, the average time since January 1st A)2022 B)2021 C)2020 D)2019 between a cervical screening appointment and a cervical cancer diagnosis
6. The average time since January 1st A)2022 B)2021 C)2020 D)2019 between a cervical cancer diagnosis and starting treatment

Response

1. The average wait times for the NHS Borders Sexual Health services are:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Implant insertion and removal	1 - 2 weeks	1 - 2 weeks	1 - 2 weeks	1 - 2 weeks
Coil / IUD insertion and removal	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 4 weeks
Repeat or new pills prescription	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks
Sexual health screening (symptomatic)	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks

Sexual health screening (no symptoms)	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks	0 - 1 weeks
Specialised clinics for young people	No specialised service for young people - seen as a priority at next available clinic appointment or in Urgent Care if required.			

Please note: NHS Borders Sexual Health department do not and have never had a waiting list. Patients ring for an appointment, have a phone consultation with a Nurse Specialist within 48 hours and appointment booked in the next few weeks, depending on when the patient is available.

2. The percentages of budget allocated to Sexual Health are:

Year	Percentage
2018	0.24%
2019	0.22%
2020	0.28%
2021	0.20%
2022	0.24%

Please note the figure for 2022 is based on the full year budget as at month 7 and may therefore be subject to change.

3. There are currently no vacancies in sexual and reproductive health facing roles in both family planning clinics and the sexual health department.
 4. There are no buildings or services in the NHS Borders Sexual Health department that were cut or repurposed during the Covid 19 pandemic that have not been returned or reopened to the Sexual Health department.
- 5&6 The average time between a cervical screening appointment and a cervical cancer diagnosis is not collated therefore we do not hold this level of detail, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 Duty to provide advice and assistance often patients attending Colposcopy are referred by the screening programme for a high-grade disease – not necessarily Cervical Cancer but may progress to Cancer through the course of time; therefore the original referral date and the Cancer diagnosis date can be very far apart.

At the Colposcopy appointment a biopsy may be taken and the result of that biopsy is usually used as the Cancer diagnosis date. However, treatment (Lletz etc) may have occurred while the biopsy was being taken i.e. before the biopsy results have been received. Therefore, treatment can be started prior to diagnosis.

The number of Cervical Cancers detected through screening in NHS Borders is fewer than 5 in each of the years included in this request, therefore, an average would be skewed by the very small numbers.

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 **616-22** 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.