

Freedom of Information request 722-22

Request

The query relates to waiting times for the testing of Sexually Transmitted Infections within your health board area.

1. To ask what the average waiting time was for the testing of the STIs (including HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, herpes and infectious syphilis) in the past five years. Could this be broken down by i) year and ii) type of infection.
2. In addition, if the information is available, to ask how many people are currently on waiting lists for the testing of STIs (including HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, herpes and infectious syphilis) in your health board area, broken down by type of STI and the time they have been waiting.

Response

1. Please find below the average waiting time was for the testing of the STIs (including HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, herpes and infectious syphilis) in the past five years broken down by i) year and ii) type of infection:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HIV	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks
Chlamydia	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks
Gonorrhoea	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks
Herpes	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks
Infectious syphilis	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks	0-2 weeks

Symptomatic patients were seen or managed by phone <1 week.

During lockdown in 2020 we introduced self-testing kits for asymptomatic patients. Patients would be triaged on the phone within 48 hours and would pick up a self-testing kit therefore we did not need to have waiting lists for STI testing.

2. We do not have any patients currently waiting.

Borders Sexual Health do not and have never had a waiting list, generally patients are seen within a few week, or if symptomatic within a few days.

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 **722-22** 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.