

Freedom of Information request 118-23

Request

I am requesting the following information regarding nurse mental health absences:

1. The number of instances of nurse absence due to stress, anxiety, depression or other psychiatric illness. Broken down by the last six financial years (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022, 2022/23)

Clarification: By number of instances of absence I mean the overall number of absences recorded (which may include multiple absences taken by the same nurse several times).

2. The number of nurses by headcount who took an absence due to stress anxiety, depression, or other psychiatric illness. Broken down by the last six financial years (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022, 2022/23).

Clarification: This request differs from request 1 because I am asking for the number of nurses who officially took an absence NOT the number of instances of absence which may count the same nurse multiple times. For example, 200 nurses may have taken an absence but there may be 472 recorded instances of absence.

3. The number of working hours lost due to nurse mental health absences. Broken down by the last six financial years (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022, 2022/23)

Clarification: Nurse refers to all bands of nurse.

Response

1. The number of instances of nurse absence due to stress, anxiety, depression or other psychiatric illness is:

2018-19				2022-23
Data only available for Jan19-Mar19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Apr22-Jan23 only
<5	109	288	302	225

2. The number of nurses by headcount who took an absence due to stress anxiety, depression, or other psychiatric illness is:

2018-19				2022-23
Data only available for Jan19-Mar19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Apr22-Jan23 only
<5	97	226	241	191

3. The number of working hours lost due to nurse mental health absences are:

2018-19				2022-23
Data only available for Jan19-Mar19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Apr22-Jan23 only
420	20852	46662	45105	35118

Please note, due to a system change, data prior to January 2019 is not available, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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](#)

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 **118-23** 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.