

## Freedom of Information request 146-23

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### Request

For the years 2019-2020, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-present:

1. How many people aged 65 and over received mental health treatment after a referral?
2. What was the average time for someone aged 65 or over to receive mental health treatment after a referral?
3. What was the longest wait someone aged 65 or over has had to wait to receive mental health treatment after being referred?
4. How many of the people identified in question one received mental health treatment within the 18-week treatment time target?
5. What are the main reasons for delays to older adults receiving mental health treatment?
6. If applicable, how many patients transferred from adult mental health services to older adult services?
7. If applicable, what was the average time for someone to transition from adult mental health services to older adult services?
8. If applicable, what was the longest wait for someone to transition from adult mental health services to older adult services?

### Response

1. The table below shows the number of accepted referrals for people aged 65 and over at the recorded referral received date.

<b>2019-2020</b>	834
<b>2020-2021</b>	857
<b>2021-2022</b>	923
<b>2022-19.02.23</b>	755

2. The table below shows the average time in days that patients aged 65 or over waited from the recorded referral received date to their first appointment date.

<b>2019-2020</b>	42 days
<b>2020-2021</b>	28 days
<b>2021-2022</b>	46 days
<b>2022-19.02.23</b>	37 days

3. The table below shows the longest wait someone aged 65 or over has had to wait to receive Mental Health treatment after being referred.

<b>2019-2020</b>	242 days
<b>2020-2021</b>	352 days
<b>2021-2022</b>	393 days
<b>2022-19.02.23</b>	190 days

4. The table below shows the numbers of the patients identified in question 1 that had their first appointment within 18 weeks of their referral date. Please note, there is not a set 18-weeks HEAT target for Adult Mental Health.

<b>2019-2020</b>	788
<b>2020-2021</b>	837
<b>2021-2022</b>	844
<b>2022-19.02.23</b>	736

5. The main reasons for delays to older adults receiving Mental Health treatment over the financial years are;

- Guidelines to be followed require a minimum of time to lapse before treatment commences (Delirium).
- The patient's physical health conditions take priority for treatment.
- COVID - Self Isolation, adhering to government guidelines on contact with vulnerable people, difficulty accessing 24-hour care settings.
- Staffing- vacancies for nurses/ OT and Doctors.
- Resources deployed during COVID from community services to wards.
- Waiting list accumulation during COVID restrictions.

6. The table below shows the number of patients transferred from adult mental health services to older adult services.

<b>2019-2020</b>	0
<b>2020-2021</b>	0
<b>2021-2022</b>	5
<b>2022-19.02.23</b>	<5

Please note: NHS Borders can only capture patients who have been referred from one service to the other and therefore had a break in their care. We are not able to capture where the patient's continuous episode of care had transferred from one service to another.

7. N/A

8. N/A

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](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 **146-23** 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.