

## Freedom of Information request 152-23

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### Request

1. How many patients have died whilst waiting to be seen in an emergency department in this health board? The patient would not necessarily need to have died because of the wait, only during the wait. Please provide this for each calendar year since 2018, including the current year to date.
2. How many patients died after waiting for over four hours in this health board? This would include patients who were seen but died during or within 24 hours after treatment. Please provide this for each calendar year since 2018, including the current year to date.
3. How many patients died after waiting for over eight hours in this health board? This would include patients who were seen but died during or within 24 hours after treatment. Please provide this for each calendar year since 2018, including the current year to date.
4. How many patients died after waiting for over twelve hours in this health board? This would include patients who were seen but died during or within 24 hours after treatment. Please provide this for each calendar year since 2018, including the current year to date.

### Response

1. No patients have died whilst waiting to be seen within NHS Borders during 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to 15 February 2023.
2. The numbers of NHS Borders patients who died after waiting for over 4 hours either in the emergency department or when admitted to an inpatient ward in the Borders General Hospital are:

(4-8hours)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date	Total
8	10	15	27	39	<5	100

3. The numbers of NHS Borders patients who died after waiting for over 8 hours either in the emergency department or when admitted to an inpatient ward in the Borders General Hospital are:

(8-12hours)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date	Total
<5	<5	<5	9	13	<5	31

4. The numbers of NHS Borders patients who died after waiting for over 12 hours either in the emergency department or when admitted to an inpatient ward in the Borders General Hospital are:

(12hours plus)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date	Total
0	0	<5	<5	16	<5	21

Please note, where time of death was not available time of discharge was used. The data is patients who have died within 24 hours either in the emergency department or when admitted to an inpatient ward in the Borders General Hospital. We do not hold data on deaths in the community within 24 hours of being discharged from an emergency department, 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](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 **152-23** 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.