NHS Borders
Communications & Engagement

NHS Borders
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Freedom of Information request 165-23

Request

How many incidents were recorded on the Datix System that related to the death of a patient.

Please specify how each incident was categorised on the Datix system. For example, the category might be staffing/inappropriate skill mix.

Please provide a breakdown by year for the last five financial years (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23)

If the last five financial years isn't held then still please include the maximum amount of information regarding financial years that you do have. If looking at the last five years would surpass the reasonable time/cost limit, then please just look back as far as you can possibly can before reaching the time/cost limit.

Clarification: While I understand that a patient death has to be investigated and that the cause is, when recorded on the Datix system, speculative, I am still seeking the number of instances when a patient's death was initially brought to the board's attention because a staff member chose to record it on the datix system.

I also understand that a reason may have been attributed to the death of a patient on Datix doesn't mean its necessarily an accurate summary of an event – it might just be staff member's recollection of it.

Response

The numbers of incidents recorded on the Datix System that related to the death of a patient are:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 to 23.02.23	**Totals**
Absconsion/Self Harming Behaviour	7	<5	<5	<5	<5	**17**
Access/Appointment/Admission/ Transfer/Discharge	0	0	0	0	<5	**2**
Child Health Event	0	0	0	<5	0	**<5**
Equipment Issues	0	0	<5	0	0	**<5**
Fall/Slip/Trip	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	**6**
Infection Control Event	0	0	<5	<5	<5	**<5**
Investigation, Diagnosis & Treatment Problems	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	**9**
Medication Event	0	0	0	<5	<5	**6**
Nutrition	0	0	<5	0	0	**<5**
Obstetric Event	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	**10**

Pressure Damage	<5	0	0	0	0	**<5**
Procedure Problems	<5	0	0	<5	0	**<5**
Tobacco/Alcohol/Illicit Substance Event	8	<5	7	10	8	**34**
Unexpected Death	9	8	13	15	15	**60**
Total	**35**	**15**	**33**	**38**	**32**	**153**

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 **165-23** 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.