

Freedom of Information request 177-23

Request

Section 1: Commissioning and care planning

1. (a) Within the past year, have you reviewed or found opportunities for improvement in pathways and care for headache and migraine?
1. (b) (i) If yes, what did this review find?
1. (b) (ii) If no, what has prevented this so far?
1. (c) Do you have any plans to implement the findings of the optimum clinical pathway for adults for Headache & facial pain published by the National Neurosciences Advisory Group (NNAG) in February 2023?
2. (a) Have you reviewed the migraine needs of your local population (e.g. numbers of people living with migraine who are diagnosed and not yet diagnosed) and planned services to meet these needs (e.g. by offering opportunities for training in migraine management to GPs, as well as adequate access to secondary and tertiary specialists)
2. (b) If not, are there plans to do so?
3. (a) Do you plan to appoint a Migraine/Headache Lead in your area (e.g. to coordinate migraine care, share guidelines among colleagues, or lead needs assessments, service development and health care professional education across the area)?
3. (b) If not, are there alternative arrangements in place to coordinate migraine care?

Section 2: Specialist headache clinics

4. (a) Do you have a specialist headache clinic in your Board area?
4. (b) (i) If yes, please give details.
4. (b) (ii) If no, please give details of the clinic you would refer out to.
5. (a) How many people did you support through your specialist headache clinics in 2021?
5. (b) How many people did you support through your specialist headache clinics in 2022?
6. What is the average waiting time from GP referral to first appointment at the specialist headache clinics in your Board area (current or for when you last had data)?
7. How many full time equivalent (FTE) headache specialist doctors are employed by your Board area (in secondary care or GPs with an extended role)?
8. How many FTE headache specialist nurses are employed by your Board area?
9. (a) Do you have plans in 2023/24 to increase headache specialist services?

9. (b) If yes, please give details.

Section 3: Access to Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) medication

10. (a) Can eligible patients currently access Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) medications through your Board area?

10. (b) (i) If yes, how many people are accessing CGRP medication through your Board area?

10. (b) (ii) If yes, which of the following CGRP medications can they access: Ajoovy/fremanezumab, Emgality/galcanezumab, Vyepti/eptinezumab, or Aimovig/erenumab.

10. (b) (iii) If yes, what is the current waiting time to access a prescribing specialist?

10. (b) (iv) If yes, is the administration of CGRP treatments monitored by a headache specialist?

10. (b) (v) If yes, is the administration of CGRP treatments subject to any additional restrictions or criteria?

10. (c) If no, do you refer and fund it out of area? Please give details.

Section 4: Training

11. (a) Do you have any education or training programmes with GPs or pharmacists in your area on migraine? (E.g. regarding GP/pharmacy education, patient management in the community, patient information or referral pathways)

11. (b) If yes, or if any are planned, please give details.

11. (c) If no, please explain any reasons (e.g. budgets / other priorities / other organisations' responsibility).

Section 5: Inequalities

12. (a) Are you aware of local inequalities of access to headache specialist services amongst any groups (e.g. by gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic groups)?

12. (b) If yes, please give details of the inequalities and any work you are doing or planning to address this.

Response

Please see attached response for NHS Borders:



FOI 177-23 Response
Data.xlsx

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 **177-23** 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.