

Freedom of Information request 193-23

Request

1. The number of GP practices in the Borders as of 1 March 2023 who have notified the board of their intention to resign from their GP contract but have not yet concluded the required notice period.
2. The number of GP practices in the Borders whose list of patients has been formally closed for registrations in each quarter since 1 April 2018.
3. The number of GP practices in the Borders whose list of patients has been formally open for registrations, but who have operated some kind of restriction on who can register at the practice in each quarter since 1 April 2018.
4. The number of patients that have been assigned to GP practices in the Borders under the board's powers to assign a patient to a practice's list in each quarter since 2018.

Response

1. No GP practices in the Borders have notified the board of their intention to resign from their GP contracts.
2. No GP practices in the Borders area have formally closed their lists for registrations since 1 April 2018 to the present date.
3. There were no restrictions in place in relation to GP Practices lists between January 2018 and March 2020. Since then, there have been temporary restrictions in place as follows:
 - Patients who are already registered with a GP in their areas are able to apply to another practice for inclusion on their list of patients, however those practices are not obliged to accept them.
 - Noting that practices should continue to accept applications from patients that are new to the area.

This was in place during the Covid-19 pandemic for all 23 Borders practices and was again put in place by NHS Borders for the Berwickshire area (6 practices) from 30 September 2022 and then extended to Borders wide (23 practices) on 16 February 2023.
4. All patient registration matters are dealt with by Practitioner Services on behalf of the GP Practices and NHS Borders. We do not hold any records locally on this information. Therefore, please note under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. For your information, please find below a link to National Services Scotland – Practitioners Services:

[Practitioner Services | National Services Scotland \(nhs.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/services/practitioner-services)

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 **193-23** 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.