

## Freedom of Information request 194-23

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### Request

On the 6th January 2023 it was announced by the Scottish Government that they would be introducing a new policy for patients who were considered fit to be discharged but who didn't have appropriate care ready for them on the outside.

The Scottish Government stated

"Patients who no longer need to be in hospital are to be reassessed as soon as possible to get them the right care in the right place at the right time.

Before the end of the month each health board area will identify patients who are clinically safe to be discharged without further delay and can safely move home or to another setting such as an interim placement in a care home"

On the basis of this information, I am seeking the following information:

1. The number of patients that have been identified as clinically safe to be discharged and moved to "another setting" since this policy started to present day.

Please provide a breakdown of the number of patients, the hospital they were discharged from and the type of setting they were transferred to and how long their stay in the new setting has been (or if they are still there).

Please reveal, if possible, how far each "setting" is from the hospital each patient was discharged from.

2. For each patient who has been discharged into an interim setting please reveal the distance between where each patient was allocated and their homes. (To be clear, I am not asking about where patients live, just the distance they're staying away from their homes)

### Response

1. The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership completed the Multi-Agency Discharge Event between 30 January and 10 February 2023 across the Borders General Hospital Adult Inpatient Beds, 4 community hospitals, 4 mental health inpatient areas and also to review patients currently in interim care beds and the home first service. Of the patients in inpatient beds 149 did not meet the criteria to be in these beds. Of these 149 patients 53 have now been discharged to an alternative location within the health and social care system as at 8 March 2023.

A total of 53 NHS Borders patients were identified as clinically safe to be discharged and were moved to "another setting":

Hospital	Destination	Patient Count
Borders General Hospital	Care Home	10
Borders General Hospital	Private Residence	11

Borders General Hospital	Intermediate Care Home or Temporary Place of Residence	6
<b>Borders General Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>
Borders General Hospital (Mental Health)	Care Home	<5
Borders General Hospital (Mental Health)	Private Residence	<5
<b>Borders General Hospital (Mental Health)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>
Hawick Community Hospital	Care Home	<5
Hawick Community Hospital	Private Residence	<5
<b>Hawick Community Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
Haylodge Community Hospital	Care Home	<5
Haylodge Community Hospital	Private Residence	<5
<b>Haylodge Community Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>
Kelso Community Hospital	Care Home	<5
Kelso Community Hospital	Private Residence	<5
<b>Kelso Community Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>
The Knoll Community Hospital	Care Home	<5
The Knoll Community Hospital	Private Residence	<5
<b>The Knoll Community Hospital</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

NHS Borders does not record the length of time a person stayed in the new setting or the distance of that setting from the hospital they were discharged from, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

2. NHS Borders does not record the distance between a where each patient was allocated and their homes, 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 **194-23** 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.