

## Freedom of Information request 199-23

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### Request

I am looking for information regarding patients who have left an NHS waiting list before receiving treatment or operation.

Please provide the following information:

1. The total number of patients who have left an NHS waiting list in the last 6 financial years (2017/ 18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) due to opting for a private healthcare treatment or operation instead.

Please also provide that data in a separate table that reflects it in calendar years (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022)

Please ensure the data is as up to date as possible.

2. For those people who left a waiting list in the last five years, please provide the duration of time they had waited for treatment or operation before they left the list.

### Response

1. The number of NHS Borders patients who have left a waiting list to have private healthcare treatment or surgery is:

#### Financial Year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Cardiology	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	6
Dermatology	13	<5	6	10	20	14
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	<5	<5	5	8	11	9
Gastroenterology	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	0
General Medicine	0	7	<5	6	<5	10
General Surgery (excl. Vascular, Maxillofacial)	14	17	18	12	37	18
Gynaecology	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5
Haematology	0	0	0	0	<5	0
Neurology	0	<5	<5	0	0	0
Ophthalmology	21	18	32	16	102	160
Oral Surgery	<5	5	<5	5	9	9
Paediatric Surgery	<5	<5	0	0	0	<5

Pain Management	0	0	<5	0	0	0
Respiratory Medicine	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	22	29	19	23	77	49
Urology	6	5	6	<5	5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>293</b>

### Calendar Year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cardiology	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	7	<5
Dermatology	17	<5	8	<5	17	19	<5
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	<5	<5	5	<5	14	9	<5
Gastroenterology	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	0	0
General Medicine	0	5	<5	<5	5	10	<5
General Surgery (excl. Vascular, Maxillofacial)	13	19	20	11	24	27	5
Gynaecology	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
Haematology	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0
Neurology	0	<5	<5	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmology	25	13	28	18	70	131	52
Oral Surgery	<5	<5	<5	<5	10	7	<5
Paediatric Surgery	<5	<5	0	0	0	<5	<5
Pain Management	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Medicine	0	0	<5	0	<5	<5	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery	25	20	23	20	61	65	7
Urology	6	6	6	<5	5	8	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>79</b>

2. The length of time the patients in Question 1 had been on the waiting list was:

### Financial Year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<= 4 Weeks	37	43	31	27	34	25
5 - 8 Weeks	25	17	27	14	17	10
9 - 12 Weeks	9	19	27	5	17	12
13 - 18 Weeks	10	13	13	7	20	14
19 - 26 Weeks	9	<5	<5	6	35	23

27 - 52 Weeks	0	<5	0	21	77	92
53 - 102 Weeks	0	0	0	<5	73	109
> 102 Weeks	0	0	0	0	<5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>293</b>

### Calendar Year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<= 4 Weeks	39	41	34	20	35	30	<5
5 - 8 Weeks	28	17	23	18	16	11	<5
9 - 12 Weeks	10	11	28	10	16	15	0
13 - 18 Weeks	14	7	19	<5	17	15	5
19 - 26 Weeks	10	<5	5	<5	27	25	6
27 - 52 Weeks	0	<5	0	11	52	88	30
53 - 102 Weeks	0	0	0	0	52	91	31
> 102 Weeks	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>79</b>

Please note: the 2023 data is up to 10 March 2023

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 **199-23** 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.