

Freedom of Information request 206-23

Request

1. The number of staff absences due to Long Covid recorded since the first staff member was off with Long Covid.
2. Please further break this data down by year.
3. Please state how many staff are off with Long Covid at the date of this request.
4. The average length of time for a member of staff has been absent due to Long Covid.

Response

1. There have been 99 staff absences due to Long Covid recorded since the first staff member was off with Long Covid.
2. The breakdown by year is:

2020	2021	2022 to 31 August 2022*
6	52	57

Please note – absences are recorded in more than 1 year if the period of absence spanned both years.

3. There were <5 members of staff absent with Long Covid on 24 March 2023.
4. The average length of time a staff member has been absent due to Long Covid is 39 days.

* Please note: **Changes to Covid Policies**

[DL\(2022\)12](#) outlines a number of changes that come into effect from 1 September 2022 relating to Covid policies and practices.

From 1 September 2022, the majority of the previous Covid Special Leave codes will be discontinued, and the following two absence codes will remain active on SSTs:

Special Leave – Coronavirus Covid 19 Positive

- where a staff member works with patients and service users face to face and is absent from work as a result of a positive LFD test, in line with DL(2022)12.

Sick Leave – Covid Related Illness

- where a staff member is on Covid Special Leave on 31 August 2022 and moves to Sick Leave on 1 September 2022;
- where a staff member is absent from work on or after 1 September 2022 with Long Covid or as described in A1 above.

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 **206-23** 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.