

Freedom of Information request 218-23

Request

I am requesting the following information regarding waiting lists for ophthalmologic treatment in your Health Board. Please provide answers in financial years as requested and provide data for all the ophthalmologic treatments offered in your Health Board.

1. The total number of patients who have left an NHS waiting list for ophthalmologic treatment in the last five years (until present) due to opting for a private healthcare treatment or operation instead. Please provide a total number for the 5-year period and a breakdown per financial year (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23)
2. The average wait for a person on a waitlist to receive any ophthalmology treatment broken down by year in the last five financial years (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23).
3. The longest wait experienced on a waitlist to receive any ophthalmology treatment per year in the last five financial years (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23).

Response

1. A total of 327 NHS Borders patients left a waiting list for Ophthalmic treatment in the last five years due to opting for private treatment/surgery. The breakdown for these patients is shown below:

| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 to 27.03.23 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Inpatients | <5 | 10 | <5 | 17 | 13 |
| Outpatients | 14 | 22 | 12 | 85 | 146 |

2. The average wait for a person on an NHS Borders waitlist to receive any Ophthalmology treatment is:
(shown in days)

| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 to 27.03.23 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Inpatients | 111 | 74 | 216 | 215 | 205 |
| Outpatients | 48 | 73 | 67 | 171 | 142 |

3. The longest wait experienced on an NHS Borders waitlist to receive any Ophthalmology treatment is:

(shown in days)

| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 to 27.03.23 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Inpatients | 299 | 236 | 441 | 831 | 953 |
| Outpatients | 225 | 266 | 412 | 794 | 925 |

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 **218-23** 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.