

Freedom of Information request 232-23

Request

1. The number of patients who have been referred for specialist treatment but have not yet received an appointment please break this down by the month in which they first sought treatment.
2. Please also tell me:
 - a) the longest someone has been waiting for specialist treatment in your health board
 - b) the longest someone had to wait to start treatment in the last five years.

Clarification

- What is your definition of “specialist treatment”? e.g., Surgery, Consultant appointment etc.
- Are you referring to a particular field of medicine or across all waiting lists?

across all waiting lists please

Response

1. The number of NHS Borders patients who have been referred for specialist treatment but have not yet received an appointment is:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	0	6	21	254	1262
February	0	<5	24	339	1620
March	0	<5	32	543	1633
April	0	0	51	471	
May	0	<5	99	557	
June	<5	<5	124	615	
July	0	<5	92	550	
August	<5	<5	141	719	
September	0	7	170	791	
October	<5	8	139	1023	
November	<5	6	235	1213	
December	<5	14	223	1044	
Total	15	51	1351	8119	4515

Note: These figures include inpatients and outpatients on the current waiting lists that have received no treatment – split by the month they were added to the waiting list.

2. a) The longest a patient has been waiting for specialist treatment in NHS Borders is 1226 days.
- b) The longest someone had to wait to start treatment in the last 5 years is 1325 days.

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 **232-23** 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.