

## Freedom of Information request 239-23

---

### Request

1. Please supply details of how many times patients have gone missing from your facilities without permission in the year 2022?
2. Please also specify out of this total how many times police were called to carry out a search?
3. Please also provide details for the above questions for the year's 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

### Clarification

For Question 1 - What is your definition of "gone missing from your facilities"? e.g. a patient leaving a ward (being found inside the hospital) or leaving the building (found on hospital grounds/public place)

Leaving the building/hospital

### Response

Questions 1 - 3

NHS Borders records absconson **with or without** permission as a duty of care, as the adverse event system does not record Adults with Incapacity Act, Mental Health Care and Treatment Scotland act, or Nurses Emergency Holding Power and therefore we do not know if permission was required. Therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under Section 15, Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance, of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please find below the number of times patients were reported as absconded following leaving the building / hospital and the number of times the police were called:

Year	Patients reported as absconded	Number of times police were called out
2017	87	36
2018	108	77
2019	54	45
2020	81	33
2021	54	36
2022	59	28

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 **239-23** 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.