

## Freedom of Information request 253-23

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### Request

I am looking for information regarding GP practices in your health board.

As such, can I request the following, broken down by the following years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (to date):

- 1.The number GP practices in your health board that have closed their practice lists.
- 2.A list of all GP practices in your health board that have restricted their practice lists.

### Response

1. No GP practices in the Borders area have formally closed their lists for registrations since 1 January 2019 to the present date.
2. There were no restrictions in place in relation to GP Practices lists between January 2019 and March 2020. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the following temporary restriction was in place for all 23 Borders practices:
  - Patients who are already registered with a GP in their area can apply to another practice for inclusion on their list of patients, however those practices are not obliged to accept them. However, practices should continue to accept applications from patients that are new to the area.

This temporary restriction was again put in place by NHS Borders from 30 September 2022 for the six Berwickshire area practices: Coldstream Medical Practice, Duns Medical Group, Eyemouth Medical Practice, Greenlaw Surgery, Merse Medical Practice (Chirnside) and Merse Medical Practice (Duns). On 16 February 2023 this temporary restriction was extended to Borders wide and remains in place, with no agreed end date at this time.

A list of GP Practices in the Scottish Borders is available at:

<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/a-z/g/>

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 **253-23** 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.