

## Freedom of Information request 329-23

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### Request

1. What are the average and longest waiting times for women whose cervical smear has identified irregularities to receive a follow-up appointment? Please provide a breakdown of statistics per month over the last five years.
2. How many appointments which were cancelled while the cervical screening programme was paused because of the Covid pandemic are still to be rearranged? Please provide a number and a percentage compared to the number of eligible women.
3. How many cervical screening appointments have been cancelled or rescheduled due to a lack of staff availability? How many of these were specifically due to staff sickness? Please provide a breakdown of statistics per month over the last five years.

### Response

1. NHS Borders do not electronically record if a request for an appointment is the result of a cervical smear that has identified irregularities. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.
2. Cervical screening is carried out by GP practices, who arrange their appointments. All GP Practices in the Scottish Borders are independent contractors and not managed by NHS Borders. This information can be accessed by contacting the GP Practices directly, therefore please note under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere. NHS Borders do not have any colposcopy appointments that were affected by the Covid pandemic still to be rearranged.
3. Cervical screening is carried out by GP practices, who arrange their appointments. All GP Practices in the Scottish Borders are independent contractors and not managed by NHS Borders. This information can be accessed by contacting the GP Practices directly, therefore please note under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 this data is accessible elsewhere.

Please note, under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A information on all GP practices within the Borders area is available at: [GP Surgeries – Scottish Borders](#) .

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 **329-23** 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.