

## Freedom of Information request 343-23

---

### Request

I am requesting the following information regarding nurse mental health absences specifically for the financial year 2022/23:

1. The number of instances of nurse absence due to stress, anxiety, depression or other psychiatric illness in total in the financial year 2022/23.

Clarification: By number of instances of absence I mean the overall number of absences recorded (which may include multiple absences taken by the same nurse several times).

2. The number of nurses by headcount who took an absence due to stress anxiety, depression, or other psychiatric illness in total in the financial year 2022/23.

Clarification: This request differs from request 1 because I am asking for the number of nurses who officially took an absence NOT the number of instances of absence which may count the same nurse multiple times. For example, 200 nurses may have taken an absence but there may be 472 recorded instances of absence.

3. The number of working hours lost due to nurse mental health absences in total in the financial year 2022/23.

Clarification: Nurse refers to all bands of nurse.

### Response

1. There were 288 instances of nurse absence due to stress, anxiety, depression, or other psychiatric illness in total in the financial year 2022/23.
2. There were 232 nurses who took an absence due to stress anxiety, depression, or other psychiatric illness in total in the financial year 2022/23.
3. The number of working hours lost due to nurse mental health absences in total in the financial year 2022/23 was 42513.

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 **343-23** 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.