

## Freedom of Information request 350-23

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### Request

Please could you provide me with:

1. Numbers of people who have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia from 2019 to 2023.
2. How much, in terms of waiting times, did it take to have a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia.

Please provide me with a breakdown per gender and year.

### Clarification

1. NHS Borders do not record diagnoses electronically; therefore, we are not able to provide this information. However, we may be able to provide the number of patients treated for a condition, if held; please can you confirm if this would be appropriate to your requirements?
2. We may not hold the length of time it took to get a diagnosis of Fibromyalgia; if this is the case, we may be able to provide the length of time from referral to the first appointment. Would this be appropriate to your requirements?

Yes, this is appropriate in both cases.

### Response

1. The total number of NHS Borders patients treated for Fibromyalgia between 2019 and 2023 is 9. The breakdown is shown below:

| Year         | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------|--------|------|-------|
| 2019         | <5     | <5   | <5    |
| 2020         | <5     | 0    | <5    |
| 2021         | <5     | 0    | <5    |
| 2022         | <5     | 0    | <5    |
| 2023 to date | 0      | 0    | 0     |

2. NHS Borders is not able to provide the length of time from referral to the first appointment for patients diagnosed with Fibromyalgia as the end diagnosis is not recorded electronically, therefore, this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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](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 **350-23** 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.